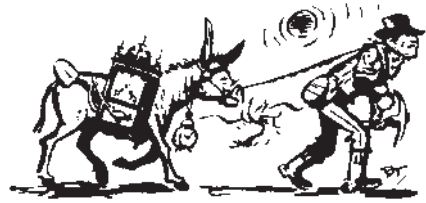


THE Tic Talk Times



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

Meeting Highlights

Summer Springs

Handling of clock mainsprings is no trivial matter. Apart from the tremendous amount of potential energy they can contain (and release very suddenly if you're not careful), proper handling and lubrication are essential to the operation of a movement. The fundamental issues of dealing with springs were covered by Ray Marsolek in his program at our September meeting.

He began with a display of spring winders, a subject he had also covered in a Beginner's Corner several months ago. He strongly recommended removing springs from barrels using a winder to avoid warping the spring. Such warping could cause the spring to rub on the barrel, increasing friction and reducing power.

He talked about determining if an old spring had any more useful life by examining the distance between



Ray runs from a rampaging mainspring

the center and the outer edge when the spring was released. Brass springs, he pointed out, should be preserved whenever possible, and any diminished running time would be the price for preserving this important original part.

He then explained how he stretched a spring out to within a few windings of the center, and cleaned it with

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Message from the President

Why We Do What We Do

In the wake of the cataclysmic events of September 11, many Americans are reassessing what's important in our lives. The entire travel and entertainment industries, which are based largely on personal indulgence, have lost their momentum. Comedians are rethinking what's funny in a new political landscape. Major league sports shut down while many players reflected on the relative importance of putting a ball through a hoop or a puck in a net. And I'm certain that collectors and traders from many areas of interest have pondered whether their pursuits have been rendered trivial by this new reality.

It has always been my belief that clocks and watches hold a special place in the pantheon of collectibles. They are art, but not just for art's sake. They represent each generation's highest levels of science and technology, yet they also reflect the human soul. And the history of the people and industries that produced them stands as an important account of ingenuity, craftsmanship and commerce.

The Taliban have no respect for history and art; witness their wanton destruction of centuries-old artifacts that did not fit with their warped version of

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Highlights of the Directors' meeting

What every member should know

The Platform Escapement workshop is coming up next month! Even if you can't attend the entire workshop, a special 4-hour lecture session is open to everyone. Details on page 3.

Several "evangelists" have already been distributing applications and invitations at their local shops. The literature holders are in and you'll be able to pick up a kit at this month's meeting.

Meeting Highlights *(from page 1)*

steel wool using WD-40 as a solvent (*not* a lubricant). To remove the loosened gunk and the WD-40, Ray uses a white shop towel, repeatedly wiping the spring until the towel comes up clean.

Another important thing to check is if there are any nicks or cracks on the spring's edge. Such flaws could indicate a weak spot in the spring where a break could occur. To find these, Ray recommended carefully running your fingers over the edge of the entire spring's length. (In a subsequent conversation, another expert recommended using a tissue or piece of fabric that snags easily to perform this test.)

Then the ever-controversial topic of lubricants came up. Ray said that any lubricant which could withstand high pressure could be used, and he admonished against using too much of any lubricant. His grease of choice is a spray-on white lithium grease, which is readily available at any large hardware or automotive store. Several members also offered their own lubricant solutions (of course). Our thanks to Ray for this informative presentation.

A Beginner's Corner on "Taking care of your watch" was presented by Charles Register. After passing out an article on the subject for everyone to take home, Charles reviewed several important points related to both buying and maintaining a watch. He covered setting the date and time, and recommended keeping the owner's handbook on all new watches. He explained that if water resistant watches are opened, they seals will almost certainly be compromised; they should be sealed by the manufacturer. Shocks to a mechanical movement should be avoided. Charles pointed out that playing golf or tennis while wearing your watch can bring it to a halt. Finally, he reminded us that strong magnetic fields should be avoided. In his job, Charles comes into contact with such fields, and several members also told of their encounters with the problem. Thanks, Charles, for sharing your information. Now let's keep the ball rolling with more volunteer presenters from the watch community!

In other news

Reservations are now being taken for the upcoming workshop on platform escapements. Doug Adams is the presenter and he is also in charge of taking the reservations. Remember, we've arranged the workshop for two audiences: if you just want to get the gist of the issues surrounding platforms, you can attend the opening 4-hour lecture for only \$50.00. For the in-depth, three day course (for which there were still a



*Dave presents
Certificates of
Appreciation to Bud
and Pat Saiben at the
September meeting.*



couple of openings at press time), your investment will be \$250 and three consecutive Saturdays in November. See the sign-up form elsewhere in the Tic Talk Times.

Show and Tell *(as reported by Marsha Cunningham)*

Jay McAlister brought a Herman Miller Gallery Clock, c1920 with battery movement. *Interesting!*

Bud Saiben brought a new small Waterbury Clock that looked like a mix master. *Cute!*

Roy Irick brought two Margain Carriage Clocks—one was plain and one was porcelain. *Beautiful!*

Gene Osten brought a wonderful Manhattan Watch Co. stopwatch. *Unusual!*

Les Leskowski brought a Mastercrafter Deep Space Network Clock for tracking NASA Space Vehicles. *Amazing!*

Larry Squires brought an engraved A. Marks watch from Lawrence, Kansas in 1892. *Wonderful!*

Hoke Dillon brought a Masonic watch, a miniature Grandfather clock, 2 small carriage clocks, and a woman's pendant watch on a very, very, very long chain. *Funny!*



Reserve Now for the Platform Escapement Workshop

Doug Adams is presenting three full days on platform escapements, to be held on three consecutive Saturdays: November 3, 10, and 17.

"But wait... there's less!" In our recent survey, half the respondents said they wanted multi-day, comprehensive workshops such as this. The other half said they preferred one-day workshops. For that half, we've decided on a unique approach: Approximately eight individuals can sign up for the complete, three-day, hands-on workshop. However, the first 4-hour session will be a lecture/demonstration that can be attended by as many as 20 members. This gives more members a chance to learn the important basics of dealing with platform escapements.

The cost for the opening lecture is \$50, the complete three-day course (which includes the opening lecture) is \$250. It will take place at Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton.

Reservation Form

for Platform Escapement Workshop

Sign me up for:

- the first-morning lecture (\$50)
 the three-day hands-on workshop (\$250)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Email _____

NAWCC # _____

Make check payable to "Orange County Chapter 69" and submit it with this form by either bringing it to the October meeting or mailing it to:

Doug Adams
1483 Paseo Grande
Fullerton, CA 92833-1347
For questions, call Doug at (714) 870-1644

President's Message *(from page 1)*

Islam. They bring to mind another 20th century incarnation of evil who ordered the burning of books and the banishment of art that did not suit him.

The NAWCC's mission is to preserve and disseminate both the joy and the importance of timepieces. Its preservation of horological history is every bit as important as preservation of the artifacts themselves, for without one, the other is left wanting for meaning. Such activities are important for the continuity of a civilization.

Each of us must grieve and ponder over our national tragedy in his or her own way and time. When we are ready, our lives will regain a sense of normalcy; perhaps not exactly how they were before September 11, but we will inevitably come back to the activities that give our individual lives meaning and substance. For me, my music and my clocks are infinite sources of both pleasure and learning. And I consider presiding over our chapter one of the most important duties I have ever undertaken. I am ready for some normalcy. I hope you are, too.

For this month's meeting, Vice-president Terry Cunningham has lined up yet another excellent live presenter. In the best tradition of the NAWCC, Jim Gilmore will share his knowledge of care and restoration of wooden clock cases. I hope you will come out to visit with your friends and take part in the meeting.

Finally, even though it has been published many times in the *Tic Talk Times*, the following poem takes on a new poignancy in light of recent events, and I think it deserves reprinting.

*The clock of life is wound but once
And no one has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own
Live, love, toil with a will
Place no faith in tomorrow for
the clock may then be still.*

More than ever, I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.



Whaddaya Know?

What *do* you know? Do you know about identifying French clocks? How about caring for wooden clock cases? Or dealing with scratches in watch cases or crystals? Think about it. Then think about putting together a five-minute presentation on the basics that will help out a beginning collector.



Congratulations! You just came up with a Beginner's Corner. Coming up with five minutes on a subject you know well is really quite easy. For some, it might be easier to come up with 20 minutes, so the art of distilling your ideas may come into play. Just concentrate on a few tidbits that *you* would have liked to have known when you started collecting.

Some other possibilities include installing bushings, tips for reassembling strike trains, or timelines of American watch manufacturers. We need people to come forward and present these short but important mini-seminars. Please see Dave or Gene at the next meeting if you can help.



*Backplate of watch, engraved "Thos. Harland, No. 481."
According to Chris Bailey, this movement was probably imported after Harland found domestic manufacture unprofitable. (Two Hundred Years of American Clocks and Watches)*

A/V Committee Members Needed!

If you can point a camera, press a button to activate a zoom lens, and operate a slide projector, we need you to help with running the audio visual equipment at our meetings. With Vice-president Terry Cunningham's recent back surgery, he can't do everything by himself! Won't you volunteer? See Dave or Terry at the meeting.

General Meeting Minutes September 2001

The President, Dave Weisbart at 8 p.m, called the meeting to order. He welcomed our guests: Dean Armentrout and Robbyn Ekstrom, Jon Helfind, and Jennifer Thomlin Atterberry.

Dave also welcomed back Hoke Dillon who has been away from our meetings.

The Minutes were approved as published in the Tic Talk Times. Our Board meeting will be a Mary Ann Wahlner's house Wednesday, September 12. Flyers for the upcoming marts (Del Mar, Chapter 116 Mini Mart, Chapter 130) were on the front table for all members interested.

Announcements

Dave Weisbart suggested that any member wanting to present a "show and tell" item to the meeting that was too large, cumbersome or fragile, could take pictures of it and give to him. He will then scan them into his computer and show them on the screen at the next meeting during "show and tell" while the owner tells about it.

Doug Adams will present the upcoming workshop on Platform Escapements. The first meeting will consist of two parts. The first part will be 4 hours of lecture and as many people who want to attend may do so. The cost for the lecture only is \$50. The second part of that first day will be the actual start of the hands-on workshop with provisions for only 8 people to attend. The cost of the lecture and workshop is \$250. Those attending must bring their own platform escapement.

Julie Stevens is soliciting clocks and watches from our membership for the 2002 Convention. Anyone interested in exhibiting his or her timepieces, please contact Julie. Only with everyone's help can this exhibit be a success.

Dave Weisbart asked for members to help with the Beginner's Corner. It only takes five minutes for something technical on assembly of various things like strike trains, care of wood, etc. There are many of you who can conduct a 5-minute talk on things of importance to beginners. This is just one way you can help give back to others what you have been able to receive yourself. Please see Terry Cunningham or Dave Weisbart to sign up.

Marsha Cunningham gave an update on Terry Cunningham's condition after his back surgery. He came through the surgery with flying colors and is up and around, although a little bent over.

Dave Weisbart gave out two Certificates of Appreciation. One Certificate was presented to Bud Saiben for all the hard work he has done for Chapter 69 and the NAWCC; and the other was presented to Pat for all the service and hospitality she has given to Chapter 69 and NAWCC. Great job, Pat and Bud!

New Business

Dave discussed the membership drive. The literature holders were on back order and won't be here for another month. He asked

General Meeting Minutes (cont. from page 4)

that all members living near antique shops take some of the pamphlets without the holders and give to those stores. This is an important step in getting new members for our Chapter; and another way to help the Chapter.

Old Business

Dave gave thanks to Al Kahn for the wonderful refreshments he provided this month. He also made the announcement that Hoke Dillon's 90th birthday was coming up, and congratulated him on that. Hoke Dillon invited everyone to his birthday party. All the information for the party was on an invitation placed on the front table for those being able to attend.

Programs

Charles Register gave the Beginner's corner on "How to take care of a watch." He covered things to consider when buying a watch as well as some maintenance and damage-preventing measures.

Ray Marsolek gave an interesting program on mainsprings. He discussed handling, cleaning, inspection and lubrication.

Show and Tell (M)

Show and Tell consisted of: Jay McAlister displaying a Herman Miller Gallery Clock with battery movement; Bud Saiben with a Waterbury novelty clock; Roy Irick showing two carriage clocks; Gene Osten displaying a Manhattan Watch Co. stopwatch; Les Leskovski with a Mastercrafter clock for tracking spacecraft; Larry Squires showing a watch by A. Marks; and Hoke Dillon with several items.

Door prizes

Door prizes were won by the following:

Charlie Davis, orchid plant

Bud Saiben, Gift Certificate to Coco's Restaurant

Charles Register, wooden tray

Pete Roth, art deco pin

Eric Leung, C-champs

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary

Directors' Meeting Minutes September 12, 2001

Dave Weisbart opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m., at the home of Mary Ann Wahlner, by giving out a copy of the agenda. Those in attendance were: Julie Stevens, Ray Marsolek, Doug Adams, Ed Athey, Terry and Marsha Cunningham, and Dave Weisbart.

October Program

Jim Gilmore will give a presentation at the October Chapter 69 meeting on "Refinishing Restoration Techniques;" and Dave Weisbart will conduct the Beginner's Corner with the subject of "How to Recognize a Marriage."

Camera Purchase

Dave apprised us of a problem on the new cameras now being produced in that some cannot record and show at the same time. A discussion followed and it was decided that Dave should talk to some of the equipment experts about our particular needs to see if we can get the required features on our new camera.

Workshop

Four people have currently signed up for the workshop to be given by Doug Adams. The dates of the workshop sessions are: Saturday, November 3, 10, and 17. The cost is \$50 for the four-hour lecture to be held on Saturday, November 3; and \$250 for the complete three-day workshop. Doug said he will go to the school where it is to be held and make sure everything is going to be OK there with the room, etc; and also to talk to them about our insurance. It was decided that Doug should be the person everyone will contact to sign up and pay for the workshop. Julie Stevens offered to be the back-up person for this sign-up.

Discussion was held on future one-day workshops. Dave appointed an Education Committee to be comprised of Terry Cunningham, Julie Stevens, and Doug Adams. This committee will select subjects for future workshops.

Evangelists

Dave told the Board that while we got quite a few sign ups to distribute applications, we still have a way to go. He gave some of the literature and holders to Board members to give out to antique stores near them. Dave also suggested that we get a Guest Book to be at the door for guests to sign on their first visit and Dave volunteered to get one.

Dave told us he received a solicitation for the chapter to renew its membership to the NAWCC Museum. We voted to send them \$100.

Go Around

Mary Ann Wahlner talked about the membership postcards and how good they are working. She also stated that she would not be able to attend the next three meetings; so Julie Stevens volunteered to do the membership for October and December. Dave asked Ray Marsolek if Alvina would be willing to help in November. He said he would ask her and get back to him.

Ray Marsolek brought up for discussion problems he was having at the door with the new door fee.

For the most part, everyone is fine with the new fee; however, there are a few complainers. One complaint was about the couple fee and it not being fair. Ray took care of that person.

Ed Athey talked about the sign-up for refreshments. Dave Weisbart wanted something non-sugar for all members that couldn't have sweets at each meeting and suggested we tell those who signed up to include them. A discussion was held about the additional cost and/or of work to do this; and it was decided to just let each person who signed up for the refreshments to make that decision for him or herself.

Julie Stevens will have the next board meeting.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell was brought up and a discussion was held. It was generally felt that the Show and Tell session at our Chapter meetings was beginning become more than just a Show and Tell session. There are a few members who are using that time to talk about other things than the item(s) they brought to share. It was decided that Dave Weisbart would broach this subject, with care, at the next Chapter meeting to insure that all members know what is expected of them when they bring a Show and Tell items; and to know that they can bring up all the other subjects that they want to during the other portions of the meeting (such as announcements).

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary