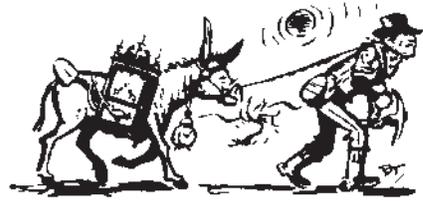


THE Tic Talk Times



October 2003
Vol. 23, No. 3

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

Meeting Minutes: Sept. 5, 2003

Morbier Clocks

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8:05 pm.

Thanks to Jan and Dick Duwe for providing the refreshments. We had ice cream...what a treat!

We still need some help with refreshments. At the time of the September meeting, we still didn't have anyone to do refreshments for October. Please contact Murray Lefkowitz if you can help out.

Welcome to our guests, Mason and Peggy Compton and Lisa, Ann and Tony Leung. We hope to see you at future meetings as well.



The Director's meeting for September will be held at Doug and Phyllis Adams' home. As always, the general membership is invited to attend.

Charles showed us the "State of the Chapters" report that was just received. The report was compiled

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This month

When Your Pivots Go "Ping"

If you work on clocks or watches, eventually it will happen. You'll be reassembling a movement, or polishing a pivot, or a wheel may just slip out of your hand, and – ping! – the pivot breaks. Or you may just encounter a pivot that's in such bad shape it needs to be replaced.

This month's program is a high-quality video presentation on how to install a new pivot into an arbor. This is a don't-miss presentation for anyone who works on his or her own movements. Eight of us were fortunate enough to see a demonstration of this technique in Ray Marsolek's recent workshop; now we can all learn how it's done.

Another topic for those who are learning the craft will be covered in the Beginner's Corner. Doug Adams will talk about choosing, using, and care of one of the staples of a horologist's toolbox, tweezers.

In memoriam

Charter Member Saul Zitter

On Sunday, September 14, as the sun was setting, Saul Zitter passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family and loved ones. He was 74.

Saul was one of only a handful of remaining charter members of Chapter 69, his chapter membership number being 9. In his statement in

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Message from the President

Involve Our Youth

With a heavy heart over the loss of one of our members, I write to urge you to share your love of clocks and watches with a younger associate. What I mean is, if we're the caretakers of time, or rather timepieces, we must share this legacy to perpetuate this love and custodianship.

It can seem quite intimidating to converse with an expert on any topic, but my personal observation is that our members, as well versed as they are, mentor and share information without reservation. We must continue along this line so that our grandchildren can participate in the camaraderie, interest and science of watch and clock collecting.

With that in mind, let's recruit! I'm sure there are some excellent candidates who are not aware of our existence. Let's see if we can't generate some interest by inviting them to our meeting.

— Charles Register



Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

from surveys that chapters were asked to fill out and send into the national last year. It shows that we are one of the few chapters that holds monthly meetings and has a full board. It also gives information such as average attendance, activities and dues for each chapter. We also received a report on how to deal with new members. If anyone would like to see either of these reports Charles will make them available. Please also let us know if you have any comments on how new members are treated...let's try to make everyone feel at home!

And in keeping with that sentiment, Charles asked everyone to look around and if you found yourself sitting near someone you didn't know, introduce yourself!

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting. There was one correction. The date for chapter 136 picnic mart was incorrectly stated as being on Sept. 14th when it was actually on the 13th. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Bud Saiben came across some items from chapter 69 going back to 1972. He read some excerpts to us. There were 78 original members of chapter 69 and can you imagine, they insisted that when elections time rolled around, at least two people had to run for each office?! There was some information on how some of the original members got interested in clocks and watches too. Bud also donated some auction catalogs to our chapter. They include the actual hammer prices for many of the items listed. This can be a great value history resource. Thank you, Bud!

This month's Beginner's Corner was "Time Signal Sources" by Gene Osten. So where does time come from? Gene explained that International Atomic Time is calculated by the BIPM (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures) from readings from atomic clocks located around the world. From time to time, International Atomic Time must be adjusted for leap second. These are determined by the International Earth Rotation Service which looks at the sun and the stars and tries to determine how fast the earth is rotating.

Once calculated, time signals are sent out in a number of different ways:

- SW radio WWV(H) and CHU in Canada accurate to within 1m.s. (WWVH is on a military base in Kauai, Hawaii and Gene was able to visit the last time he was over there.)
- LW radio WWVB accurate to within 1m.s.
- GPS standard receiver (PVT) accurate to within 100n.s.
- GPS timing receiver accurate to within 25n.s.

- Internet – NTP (Network Time Protocol) accurate to within 200m.s. – from here you can synchronize your computer clock.
- Phone time – seems to be accurate to within about 200m.s. – in Orange county, call (714) 853-1212
Gene was even able to pick up a GPS time signal in the Ebell Club! It was fascinating!

The presentation for September was Morbier Clocks by Dean Armentrout. Dean explained that these clocks originated in France in the region that was known as Franche-Comte. The area is mountainous and the winters are harsh. Around the 17th century, farmers in the area started a tradition of clock-making during the winter months when farming was impossible. The farmers would then pack up the clocks and sell them from village to village. (Portability is why we see folding pendulums on these clocks.)

Dean showed us slides of a progression of clocks starting from around 1680. Some of the earliest had an interesting feature – the winding key holes were hidden behind a design feature that were slid aside to wind the clock.

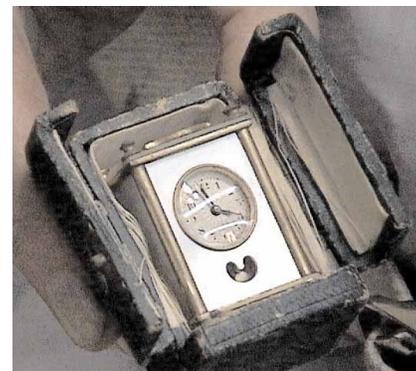
Also shown were different escapements and pendulums. There were slides of odd Morbiers and examples of some beautiful cases. Dean also showed us some pictures of Morbiers before-and-after restoration.

Dean also brought in a number of beautiful Morbiers from his won collection. This was an informative presentation on some very beautiful clocks!

Show and tell for the month was horological items beginning with the letter "M".

Charles brought in an original Movado Museum watch (above). This watch was solid 14 karat gold and had the date window at the 12 o'clock position.

Bud Saiben brought in miniature clock (below). One was a travel clock in its original case. There was a model of a castle in Prauge with a tiny clock in the castle clock tower. He also showed us a variety of miniature clocks in beautiful china cases.



Saul Zitter *(from page 1)*

the first “Chapter Activities” booklet from 1972, he said he had been collecting watches for four years. That would put his collecting hobby at a total of 35 years now.

At a touching graveside service, his Rabbi told of Saul’s passion for collecting – and not just clocks and watches. He also spoke of Saul’s intelligence and ready wit. He even related a story of Saul’s flirtatious nature while working at Northrup Corporation – Saul would distribute pictures of himself to the new female employees in exchange for “favors” (in the form of cakes)!

Saul held many positions in our chapter and was always willing to help whenever he was called upon. He was the kind of member without which our chapter could not run. He will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Tinnia, four daughters and one son, a brother and sister, and 11 grandchildren.

Minutes *(cont.)*

Roy Irick brought in a lovely French candlestick clock from the late 1800’s to early 1900’s. How is this an “M” item? It is signed Meusnier.

Tony Baker brought in a one-of-a-kind clock (right) in the shape of an A saying that the “M was for the clockmaker, ME!” Tony made the clock for a friend whose initial is the letter A and this inspired the shape of the clock.

Phyllis brought in a miniature Big Ben clock and a miniature Stature of Liberty clock.

Doug Adams shared a beautiful movement (m for movement) that he just purchased (far right). From the style of the pillars he estimated it’s date to between 1700 to 1800. It is a fusee and is signed Goddfried Poy London.

Bernie Peralta showed us his Movado. This one has an unusual red dial. The watch was made during a time when Movado was working with Citizen.

The door prizes were won by Betty Blaurey, Paul Schmitt, Dennis Woodsen, Pat Espy and Merrill Diem. Congratulations!

The meeting was then adjourned by Charles.

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

Dave's Shop Talk

Another Use for Rodico

Rodico is a light green putty-like substance made by Bergeon. It is easily molded with the fingers and has a tacky surface that makes it very useful for picking up dust and contaminants as well as small spots of oil from watch and clock parts. I've been using it for some time in a way that might not have been anticipated by Bergeon.

When setting the rotational alignment of gears in a strike or chime train, it's often the case that three consecutive gears must be in exact alignment for the train to work. Depending on certain variables (such as pivot length), the process of spreading the plates and disengaging two of the gears so you can realign one of them can be a real exercise in frustration. If one of the gears you didn't want to rotate skips a tooth, you're back to square one when you get the plates back together.

In the case where I want to hold one or more gears motionless while spreading the plates, I just apply a glob of Rodico where it will do the most good. This is often where a gear and pinion meet, with part of the Rodico also touching the plate. Now when I spread the plates, those gears don't go anywhere while I adjust the one that needs it. It can also make re-assembly easier since the gears are held in a relatively fixed position in relation to the plate.

The Rodico comes off cleanly when you're done, and it has a very long life. I'm sure I'm not the first to do this, but since no one has ever told me about it, I thought I'd pass the idea along.



**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: October 3, 2003

Program:

**Video Presentation:
"Replacing a Pivot"**

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:

"Tweezers" by Doug Adams

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "N"

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of:
Dennis Woodson
5802 Shasta Circle
La Palma, CA 90623
(714) 522-1945

*Parking and entry
off Mortimer St.*



Ramp
available