



Meeting minutes, Sept. 5, 2008

A Case for Refinishing

President Dave Weisbart called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM

Attendance was good with about 40 members in attendance and most mart tables in use.

Dave welcomed our guest Alan Cox and announced a new chapter member, Steve Buck.

Dave thanked Annette DiMino for providing our evening refreshments including pastries and beverages.

The August meeting minutes as published in the Tic Talk Times were approved.

Dave also thanked Randy Ema, who was present at the meeting, for hosting this year's Directors Potluck.

Dave reminded the members that we will be having elections in November and have an opening on the board for membership chair as Cora Lee Linkenhoker's term limits have been reached and she will retire from that position.

Dave covered the following upcoming events:

- Chapter 69 Board Meeting next Monday, 9/8 at 7:30 PM location TBD
- Chapter 4 Annual Merrimart on 9/21 at the Bellflower Masonic Lodge
- Chapter 116 Halloween Supermart on 10/19 at the Arcadia City Comm. Center

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This month

Brocot Dynasty

This month, we have an outstanding live presentation entitled "The Brocots – A Dynasty of Horologists." It will be given by John Kirk, current vice-president of Chapter 56. John painstakingly translated the French book "Les Brocot – une dynastie d'horologers" by Richard Chavigny, and did significant additional research to create a presentation that gives an excellent, fact-filled view of this important clock and watch making family.



We will learn about the Paris clockmaking industry, and how it came to be based on ébauches (unfinished parts, basically) from large suppliers, which were then finished and assembled in Paris.

John will present the genealogy of the Brocot family. Not dissimilar to the Terry clockmaking dynasty in the U.S., the Brocots involved several generations and branches of the family in horological pursuits.

Inventions, patents, makers' stamps and beautiful examples from this very important family will all be shown.

This presentation has something for everyone – beautiful clocks for the collectors, design details for the

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Message from the President

Of Ambassadors and Teachers

Hey, how'd you like to be an ambassador? You don't have to make a big campaign contribution, or even know the right people. I'm talking about being a good-will ambassador for the NAWCC and chapter 69.

I find it interesting that just about everyone I talk to, when I reveal how I make my living, has a story about a clock or watch. Maybe it's an inheritance, or maybe it's something they bought on a trip. Almost invariably, though, there's a clock or watch that has some significance in a person's life.

But the moment someone tells me they have three or four or more clocks, I shift into ambassador mode. Believe it or not, my first instinct is not to try and make them a customer of my shop (probably not the best business instinct), but rather to get them to come to a chapter meeting.

I talk about our widely varied programs. I talk about the library where they can probably look up information on their timepieces. I talk about the mart and the friendly, helpful people they can connect with. And if they haven't run away from me by that point, I tell them about the national organization and its publications.

Not everyone is a joiner. But as anyone in marketing will tell you, and as I've written in the column many times, it's a numbers game. We have

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- Ward Francillion Time Symposium, 10/23-25 in Springfield, Ill.
- Southwest California Regional on 11/20-22 in Del Mar
- Greater Los Angeles Regional, 2/5-7 2009 in Pasadena
- NAWCC National Convention, 6/23-25 2009 in Grand Rapids

Dave told us that a long time member, George Clifford had cardiac surgery last May and is having a difficult recovery. We all wish George the best.

Bob Ciampa who lives in Orange is looking for a ride to our meetings. Let Bob or Dave know if you can help.

New Business: Dave brought to our attention the National Science Olympiad that provides an alternative to middle and high school science fairs by sponsoring team projects in the sciences. One of the upcoming team projects will be the development of a non-electrical "time teller" which will be graded on accuracy for the upcoming competition. The southern California competition is held at California State University in Long Beach. Anyone interested in volunteering, as a mentor for next year should contact Dave for more information.

Dick Pridham gave us a short summary of two clock and watch museums he visited this summer. Both had excellent collections with signage in English that made the visits more interesting to those of us challenged by other languages. The first one was the German Watch Museum in the small town of Glashütte Germany about 25 miles to the south and east of Dresden. The second was the Dutch Gold, Silver, and Clock Museum in Schoonhoven Holland that is about halfway between Utrecht and Amsterdam.

Doug Adams presented our Beginners' Corner on the use and care of tweezers. Doug brought a large selection of tweezers he uses in watch and clock repair. Doug cautioned that tweezers must remain sharp and well aligned to be reliable and after the screwdriver, tweezers are the most used tool in watch and clock repair but a worn or damaged pair can result in fruitless searches for small parts that have flown away unexpectedly.



Some of Doug's Tweezers

Doug showed us general-purpose tweezers and specialty tweezers for straightening hairsprings and curved ones for holding jewels in watch repair. Doug also recommended having some set aside for "rough" work

such as heating and straightening bent parts such as pivots. Doug showed us grooved tweezers for holding round or cylindrical parts and brass lined tweezers to avoid marking soft metal parts. Doug had a pair made from stainless steel to be used when working with magnetic materials such as in an Accutron. Doug's last word of advice, "Never drop them!"

Main Program was a video No. 533 from the NAWCC lending library titled "Finishing Clock Cases" presented by Foster S Campos who is widely known for his excellent reproduction American clock cases. This video was taped at the 1990 Florida Regional and has Foster explaining how he finishes both new cases and restores old and antique cases. Some of Foster's key points were:

- For new cases assemble then take apart and sand the parts before final assembly
- Use water stains, not oil, because they are easier to work with and more forgiving
- Any color can be mixed using red, yellow, and black aniline dyes.
- Dry stains overnight and cover with a light coat of shellac or varnish before sanding
- Use 120, or 180 grit silicon carbide sandpaper between coats. Sanding through to stain is OK if needed to get smooth results. Restaining is not hard to do in needed
- Use stained beeswax or melt a shellac stick to fill any holes
- Continue with additional layers of shellac until several layers are completed
- Complete with 2-3 finish coats, then seal and rub with pumice and finally use very fine steel wool and wax for a gloss finish if desired. Rubbing compound or auto polish will also produce a higher gloss
- Don't buy ready made shellac in a can but mix it fresh from flakes and alcohol
- For refinishing most strippers work equally well so used the cheapest one available and apply with fine steel wool; avoid scraping
- After stripping, finish with alcohol or lacquer thinner then apply a coat of shellac to seal before sanding
- Fill holes, dents, cuts etc. using stick shellac melted and applied with a hot knife
- Sometimes just cleaning off old wax with a commercial product like Formula 409® will make a big difference and avoid refinishing but be careful not to remove the old finish too!
- Sometimes an "alligator" finish can be improved and the color brought back by brushing with paint thinner until it softens and smoothes out

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- Foster warns against using polyurethane on clock cases as it is almost impossible to remove later for an subsequent restoration work in the future
- Veneer repair requires special care and shaped blocks to prepare it for any curved surfaces and always requires secure clamping to get professional results

Show & Tell followed our main program. Les Lesovsky brought a skeleton clock that he built this summer from a kit he had bought at a mart. The kit seemed to have been assembled from parts from many different sources and countries and didn't all work together when first assembled. Some of the pivot holes had been predrilled in the wrong place and Les had to redrill and bush to get the correct depth for the wheels. Skeletonizing the plate was also a laborious job the Les ended up doing by clamping the plates together, drilling, sawing, and finally hand filing to his custom design. Les also put a "grained" pattern on the plates by drawing them over a strip of coarse sand paper. The "two-week" job turning into a summer project but the clock looks great and was running at the meeting.



Our meeting concluded with drawings for our door prizes. Winners were Annette DiMino, Ed Athey, and Bill Clark.

Board of Directors Meeting September 15, 2008

The September meeting was held at the home of Dave Weisbart

Members in attendance: Dave Weisbart, Ray Brown, Cora Lee Linkenhoker, Bob Linkenhoker, Debbie Abbott, Ron Abbott, Phyllis Adams, Doug Adams, and Julie Stevens.

The August 1, 2008 membership list was reviewed and 60 out of 90 members have renewed their membership. Bob Linkenhoker will send out a reminder notice to renew, either by email or postcard.

Bob Linkenhoker gave the Treasurer's Report and said our money is safe.

Programs for the next few months were discussed. The October program will be a live program given by John Kirk from Santa Barbara on the Brocot Family. John translated a French book to English. The November program will be another live program given by Jim Glidwell who recently designed and built a mantle clock. December's meeting will be "Horological Follies". The name may change. Ray Brown suggested that instead of a

program in December, we discuss the state of the club and our need for more board member support from the chapter.

We need to designate a nominating chairperson for the elections.

Ideas for the Beginners Corner were discussed. In October, Bob Linkenhoker and Doug Adams may give a tool sharpening demonstration.

Also discussed was the idea from Anna Pond, mention our honored members in the Tic Toc Times.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

This Month (from page 1)

mechanics, and abundant data for the historians. We hope you'll make it a point to attend.

Also this month, Bob Linkenhoker will present an overview on a newly revised "Chapter Charter" proposal from headquarters. This long-needed document puts into writing a framework for the relationship between the chapters and national. Headquarters is asking the chapters to ratify this document.

President's Message (from page 1)

to continue our efforts to boost membership. And so (now please kneel), by the power vested in me as chapter president, I bestow upon YOU the title of Good-Will Ambassador. Start spreading the word.

One thing I've noticed is that we generally get good turnout for our better programs. I would love to see a really big turnout this month. John Kirk is driving down from Santa Barbara just to talk to us! I've seen his program before, and I learned so much from it, I really wanted to bring it to our chapter. If you know someone who has even a small interest in the history of clockmaking, or who has any antique French clocks, please make it a point to invite them to the meeting. I think they'll be impressed. If you know a member who lives near you but needs transportation to and from the meeting, please make an effort to help.

One of the most important functions of the chapter is to facilitate learning more about horology. Those of us who have significant collections or who have specialized in a particular area of study have, I believe, a duty to share some of their knowledge with the rest of us. This requires the collector-specialist to distill certain core concepts, or historical perspective, or aesthetic appreciation for his or her chosen specialty. Many of you, in a private setting, can talk for hours about your collections. Please give serious thought to distilling those hours of enthusiasm to a half-hour presentation. You will gain the esteem and thanks of your fellow members.

See you at the meeting (and bring a friend)!

— Dave Weisbart

**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, October 3, 2008

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"The Brocots – A Dynasty of
Horologers"
by John Kirk

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Chapter Charters" by Bob Linkenhoker

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letters "L" or
an example of a refinished clock or watch case.

Board Meeting:

To be announced

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

