

Tic Talk Times



OCTOBER 2014
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting Minutes, September 5, 2014

POCKET CHRONOMETERS

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Martyn. Thanks to Annette DiMino for bringing refreshments tonight.

The minutes from last month were approved by Bob Linkenhoker and seconded by Dave Weisbart with no corrections.

Upcoming events:

Del Mar Regional coming up soon October 23-25 2014

Greater LA Regional January 29, 30 and 31, 2015

Tonight's Beginner's Corner is by Paul Martyn concerning quick case restoration. He uses:

1. Howard's Restore Finish to blend in scratches; different stains are available.
2. MinWax and also black Pre-Wax
3. Deft gloss finish (use with blue painter's tape).
4. Spray shellac
5. Wood stain
6. Yellow can

Larry told us he cleans a clock case using Windex.

Presentation: DVD on Watches Part II "What to Look for when buying a watch" by Bill Schaffer and Bill Meggers.

The case:

Open face case – Railroad – the serial numbers should match bezel.

Hinged back or jointed case

Hunting case which is to protect the dial

Case Material (starting with the best) can be: solid gold or solid platinum, gold filled, sterling silver, coin silver, gold plated, stainless steel, or nickel silver such as "Silvoroïd".

A polishing cloth can polish and can hide wear but are abrasive. Brass needs constant polishing.

A manufacturer's name is worth saving.

Sometimes case screws can show marks to show a recasing.

How good is the watch running? A handpuller is a must.

The video stopped at this point.

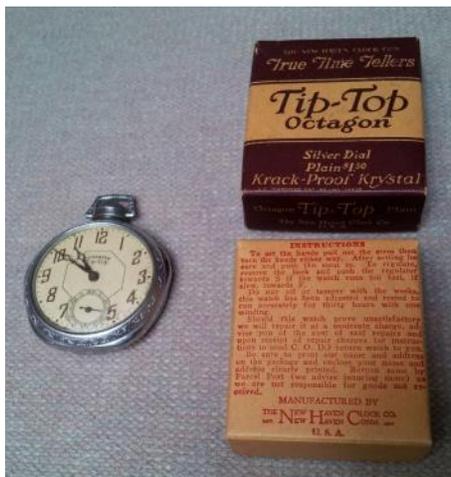
Thanks to Gene Osten for handing out his paper on "How to Check Out a Pocket Watch".

Show and Tell – Letter "N"

Dave Weisbart showed us a pocket Newhaven TipTop which was his father's bar mitzvah watch. He found an original box on eBay for an Octagon which he will use for this watch.

Raffle prizes were won by Dave Weisbart, Stan Goldklang and Larry Squires.

Minutes submitted by Phyllis Adams, Secretary, Chapter 69



This Month

THE JOYS OF ALARM CLOCK COLLECTING

This month, join us as Bob Linkenhoker gives us a live presentation all about The Joys of Alarm Clock Collecting. The program will cover some of the reasons he collects these gems, along with many pictures of his personal collection of alarm clocks. Bob will also give us a description of the repairs he did on a very unusual Westclox alarm called the 'Little Ben' that was only produced from 1910 to 1912.



For our Beginner's Corner this month, Dave Weisbart will talk about an extraordinary restoration of a Vienna regulator. The wooden back, which featured beautiful book-matched veneer, was horribly warped and defied all efforts to straighten it. Come see what Dave's "wood guy", Mark Bausman, did to repair this lovely old piece.

TIME TRIVIA

In the 1840s a railway standard time for all of England, Scotland, and Wales evolved, replacing several "local time" systems. The Royal Observatory in Greenwich began transmitting time telegraphically in 1852 and by 1855 most of Britain used Greenwich time. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) subsequently evolved as an important and well-recognized time reference for the world.

HOW THE WORLD'S FIRST SMARTWATCH WAS BUILT

The pocket watch could be called the world's first "smart" device, and its development involved some of the greatest scientific minds of the 17th Century, writes historian Lisa Jardine. The current issue of the magazine *Antiquarian Horology* contains a short article about 16th Century pocket watches which begins: "Is this, or is it not, the world's oldest watch?" The watch in question is German, and the article announces an initiative to establish whether it pre-dates French, Italian, and Dutch watches of around the same date.

Those interested in horology seem perennially preoccupied with who got there first. Each modification to a clock or watch has to be attributed to an individual, whose technical savvy achieved ever greater precision in measuring the passage of time. The debates around precision timekeeping are a fascinating branch of the history of science.

Who first designed a more accurate timekeeper was once more than a matter of academic interest. In the late 17th Century, clock and watch design was part of national security. Navigation and mapping were both essential for the successful conduct of war. England was involved in a sequence of wars against the French and the Dutch in this period. Star charts and nautical maps depended on observations made with one of the new long telescopes, and the time of each observation had to be accurately recorded. The person who could improve the accuracy of currently available clocks could make himself a handsome sum from manufacturing and marketing his state-of-the-art timekeeper.

So in the 1670s, Sir Jonas Moore, Surveyor General of the Royal Ordnance, and an accomplished practical mathematician, was preoccupied with clocks and watches. His interest was strictly tied to his military and naval responsibilities at the Ordnance Office, in the Tower of London. He was the person in charge of military supplies in time of war, and responsible for providing the best possible equipment for determining location to military and naval commanders.

In 1675 Moore became aware that the Royal Society was lobbying for the award of a patent to the Dutch scientist Christiaan Huygens, for a radically new design of watch, regulated by a coiled hair spring, which brought its precision in line with current pendulum clocks, of the sort Jonas Moore was to commission and pay for himself for the new Observatory at Greenwich. Instead of having to cross the room from telescope to clock, an observer could now glance down from eyepiece to watch, producing a near-simultaneous correlation between reading and timing.

Huygens was a foreigner and an enemy alien during the three 17th Century Dutch wars. His competitor, who claimed to have invented the balance-spring-regulated watch first, was the London polymath Robert Hooke. Fortunately for Hooke, Sir Jonas Moore stepped in to the controversy (aghast, presumably, at the idea that the rights for so sensitive a piece of equipment should be granted to a Dutchman). It was proposed that the two men produce prototype watches, to be tested to see if their inventor's claims held up.

Hooke set about proving that his balance-spring watch was superior to Huygens's (which he scornfully said, didn't even have a second hand). He had the best London clock-maker, Thomas Tompion, construct a watch to his own design which incorporated the revolutionary hair-spring regulator.

With the help of Moore, who had tutored the young Duke of York in mathematics, it was brought to the attention of the duke's brother, Charles II himself. Hooke and Tompion presented their prototype watch to the king for testing. It was delivered in early May 1675, its silver case inscribed in Latin: "Hooke invented this 1658. Tompion made this 1675."

Over the months that followed, the king - who prided himself on his skills as a scientist, and had his own laboratory at Whitehall Palace - personally "tested" the Hooke/Tompion watch, reporting on its accuracy, and returning it for modification and correction when it ran slow.

Sir Jonas Moore was also provided with one of the top-secret watches to test. He passed his to John Flamsteed, a young astronomer who was later to become the first Astronomer Royal. Flamsteed observed that such a portable watch "being set by a corrected Pendulum" would be "of very good use in making astronomical observations".

He found that it performed well, differing by only a minute a day from his pendulum clock. He was annoyed, however, to be unable to examine the mechanism of the watch. As he explained to a friend, "Mr Tompion had filed off the spring that closes the watch so that I could not open it to see how the spring was fastened within."

In the end, neither Hooke nor Huygens was granted an English patent for the balance-spring watch, since both watches kept less good time than their inventors had promised. Ultimately, what Moore was looking for was a timepiece that could keep accurate time under the adverse conditions of a ship at sea, to establish its longitude.

That question was not, of course, settled for almost another century. . Neither Hooke's nor Huygens' watch proved up to the task, but in hindsight, both men deserve full credit for their remarkable improvements to pocket watches. It is to imagine not having access to the time wherever you are.



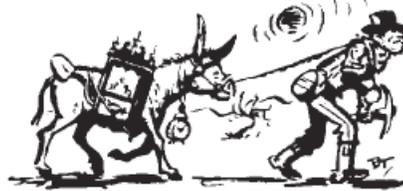
Dues are Past Due!

Be sure to renew your Chapter 69 membership soon! If you do not renew before November, you may be dropped from membership.

Your support of our activities is very important to the chapter's well-being, so we're counting on every member to send in his or her renewal. Please fill out the form on the right and bring it with you to the meeting. If you can't attend this month's meeting, please mail your dues today!

Don't Like to Stand in Line?

Get the annual pass option! This permanent badge gets you into every regular meeting without having to pay at the door. This pass gets you into 12 meetings for the price of 11. For an individual pass, include \$44 plus your dues (\$54 total). For a couples pass, include \$66 plus dues for two (\$86 total).



**Orange County Chapter 69
Membership Application**

New Member Renewal
(check one)

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name

First Name

Spouse Name

Street Address / P.O. Box #

City, State, ZIP

NAWCC #

Phone

Email Address

Check here to receive the Tic Talk Times by U.S. Mail (\$5.00 Extra)

Dues for 2012-2013 are \$10.00. Please make your check payable to: "Orange County Chapter 69."
Check below for options. Amounts are in addition to dues.
 Couples annual pass (\$66)
 Individual annual pass (\$44)

UPCOMING MARTS

OCTOBER 2014

[2014 NAWCC Ward Francillon Time Symposium](#)

When: Oct 16 - 18
Where: Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, FL, US

[2014 Southwest CA Regional](#)

When: Oct 23 - 25
Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Bing Crosby Building, Del Mar, CA, US
[Register Now](#)

NOVEMBER 2014

[2014 Southern Regional](#)

When: Nov 8 - 9
Where: Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie, LA, US

[2014 Mid-Eastern Regional \(Click here for site\)](#)

When: Nov 13 - 15
Where: 1921 West Lee Street, Greensboro, NC

[2014 Mid-Eastern Regional](#)

[\(Click Here for the Registration Form\)](#)

When: Nov 13 - 15
Where: Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center, Greensboro, NC, US

[Register Now](#)



National Association of
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

Full details for all upcoming marts:
<http://community.nawcc.org/events/upcomingevents/>

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 69
C/O CORA LEE LINKENHOKER
7186 CALICO CTR.
CORONA, CA 92881

The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.



OUR NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 2014

Program

**THE JOYS OF
ALARM CLOCK
COLLECTING**

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:

Saving old veneer

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with letter "O" or any type of Alarm Clock

Board Meeting:

No Board Meeting this month

