

THE Tic Talk Times



November 2006
Vol. 26, No. 4

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

Meeting minutes, Oct. 6, 2006

Deck Watches

The meeting was called to order at 8pm. President Doug Adams welcomed guests Ken & Leigh Kellner, who were guests of Ron & Debbie Abbott.

Charles Register informed us that Pat Becker has passed away. Doug thanked Bill Acuna for the refreshments, and Jon Clark for donating Halloween popcorn and T. Bruce Clark for donating a clock he had made, both for door prizes.

Upcoming events

- Del Mar Regional Ch. 59, November 16-18 (flyers are available)
- Chapter 116 (flyers are available), October 28
- The Greater LA Regional, February 2 and 3, with Saturday open to the public.
- Chapter 69 Extended Mart beginning at 6pm on November 3rd.

Roy Crowe is in Fullerton in a secured residence and is getting better (according to Dick). Irene Kleim has broken her shoulder but is mending. Bud was in the hospital but is home now.

The November board meeting has been moved to Mission Viejo, on November 6th.

Charles reminded us we need a person for Ways & Means, to open the door. Elections will be in November with installation in January. He added we are one of the

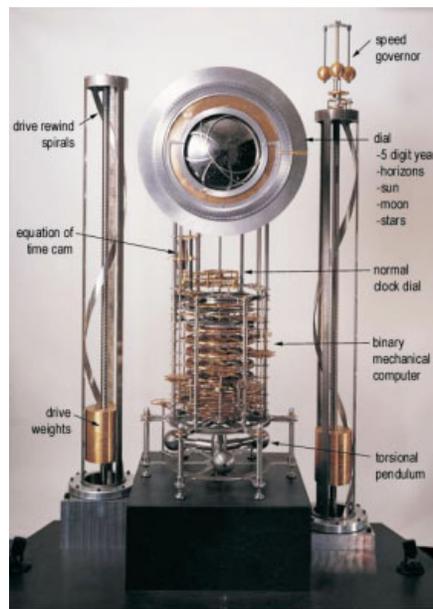
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This month

Long Now 02006

This is a busy month at Chapter 69. First, make sure you arrive early for our special, **2-hour pre-meeting mart!** Doors will open at 6:00 P.M. for this special event. Want a table? Want a great deal on a special clock or watch? Get there on time!

Our presentation for this month will on the Long Now Foundation and its clock project. The Long Now Foundation was founded in the year



01996 to promote projects that encourage thinking farther into the future instead of the current trend of short term planning. It has begun programs such as the Rosetta Project to record all languages spoken on Earth and, more of interest to us as horologists, the 10,000 year clock of

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Feature

A History of Ulysse Nardin

Ulysse Nardin was born in Le Locle, Switzerland in 1823. Following in his father's footsteps, he trained as a "remonteur" and eventually set up his own workshop. In 1846, the Ulysse Nardin company was founded. Little more than a counter, its watches displayed high-quality craftsmanship and were signed by their maker. It was the beginning of an enterprise that has lasted more than 150 years. Nardin's first watches were sold in Central and South American through a Paris go-between, Lucien Dubois, who was Nardin's only customer for two years.

In 1860, Nardin moved into a larger factory and the firm became known as "Ulysse Nardin, fabricant d'horlogerie sur les Recues 33". He also acquired a high-precision astronomical regulator to rate his pocket chronometers. This is the well-known regulator constructed by Jacques-Frederic Houriet in 1768. It is now in a museum in Le Locle. Minute repeaters, highly complicated watches and pocket chronometers carry the reputation of the House far and wide, so much so that the United States became a viable market for the young firm's products in the early 1860's.

In 1862, Nardin received the "Prize Medal" - the highest possible honor - at the London International

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Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

only chapters which meets every month AND has a full slate, a newsletter, and we are also a congenial group. Doug added that we help each other out. The Library needs books returned. We did get new wheels for 1400 lb. weight.

Beginner's Corner

Roy Irick talked about carriage clocks and their price genealogy, such as from a yard sale to a collector, and to



Sotheby's for the ultimate price. So get it early for best price. Be careful of Chinese knockoffs. Why is it called a TIMEPIECE? Because it has no strike.

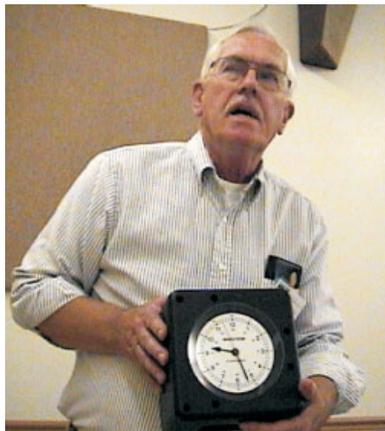
Doug Adams gave a live presentation on pocket chronometers

(or deck watches). He covered the following topics using a Powerpoint presentation:

- Around 1700, no hairspring.
- Christiaan Huygens 1661 - pendulum with parabolic path - marine chronometer concept, also spiral hairspring.
- John Harrison - Grasshopper escapement, also "H3" in 1757 - "H4" in 1759 (final chronometer). This is the one that won the Royal Reward to determine longitude. It is small (3") like an average watch. They used a portable deckwatch to take measurements with sextant.
- John Arnold - Horizontal spring detent design (Thomas Earnshaw 1784) temperature affects rate of watch. Temperature compensation also.
- John Arnold - 1755 - roller bearings. Many hair-spring variations.
- John Arnold - bimetallic balance.
- Abraham Breguet 1809 - Toubillion.

Show & Tell

Doug showed a chronometer with spring detent and wedge weight, a pocket chronometer with adjusting weights and curves for adjusting temperature (John Arnold). In WWII these were modified and used. Don Buster used a chronometer



during WWII. Les Lesovsky showed a ship's chronometer in original box (quartz Imhof). Julie showed her watch collection of Illinois wrist watches: a Ritz and a Piccadilly, and a book by Fred Freeberg. Roy Irick showed a Atmos Anniversary

Edition and Ray Brown showed a Japan movement "Jecko" battery clock.



This Month *(from page 1)*

which the first prototype has been built and is on display in London.

Bob's presentation will provide details on the first prototype which is over eight feet tall and uses a 100 pound torsional 1/2 second beat pendulum. It displays minutes and hours, the year in five digits, sun and moon phase position, horizon indicator and a star field that changes once per day to show the night sky. The star field also rotates off axis to show the change in the night sky caused by the slowing of the earth (about 1 second every one hundred years). Want to know how they do that? Come to the meeting and find out!

Beginner's Corner

Ray Brown will be asking for inputs for next year's programs at our next meeting. We need ideas for new programs for both the main presentation but also for our hands-on Beginner's Corner. Ray is also looking for volunteers for each of these areas for 2007.

Also at this month's meeting, elections will be held for our officers and directors for the coming year. And speaking of elections, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 7!

Ulysse Nardin *(from page 1)*

Exhibition, in the category of “complicated watches, pocket chronometers”. This award put the watchmaker in the lead internationally among pocket chronometer makers. Three years later, the company moved again, this time to its present location at 3 rue du Jardin. Thanks to its reputation as the leading maker of chronometers, the business expanded. Unfortunately, Nardin was felled by a heart attack in 1876, prompting his 21 year old son, Paul-David Nardin, to take control of the company.

Paul-David Nardin proved himself an able leader, as the firm won a Gold Medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1878, was awarded two Swiss patents in 1890, won First Prize at the Chicago Universal Exhibition in 1893 with a magnificent chronometer made of silver and gold, constructed nine pocket chronometers with tourbillon escapements - the list goes on and on. By 1915, the standards of the firm was so high that at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., Ulysse Nardin took first place among 60 marine chronometers entered. In the same trial, the company took three of the first five places among 217 deck watches entered.

Needless to say, Ulysse Nardin won many more awards, further adding to its stellar reputation as a maker of highly precise and finely made timepieces. To put the accomplishments of this firm into proper perspective, the Neuchatel Observatory published its last official publication concerning the performance of chronometers in 1975. (The performance of mechanical timepieces was no longer relevant when quartz watches became commercially available.)

According to the official reports during this period, Ulysse Nardin obtained: 4,324 certificates of performance for mechanical marine chronometers out of a total of 4,504 awarded (approximately 95%); 2,411 prizes of which 1,069 were First Prizes and which include four series prizes awarded to chronometers heading the list; 747 First Prizes in the categories deck watch, pocket chronometer and wristwatch; and lastly, in various exhibitions, Ulysse Nardin and his successors obtained:

- 14 Grands Prix (First Prizes)
- The “Prize Medal” and the “Progress Medal”

- 10 Gold Medals
- 2 Prix d’Honneur
- 2 Silver Medals

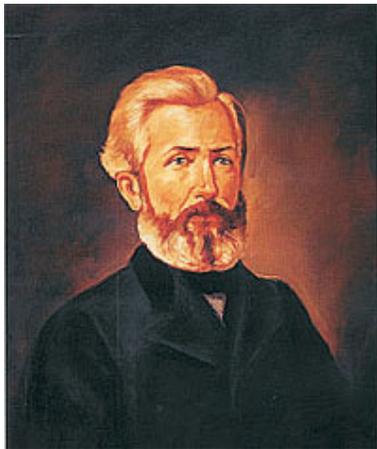
Like many great Swiss brands, the 1970’s were not kind to Ulysse Nardin and the firm fell on hard times. But in 1983, an investment group headed by Rolf Schnyder purchased Ulysse Nardin and launched the famous Astrolabium Galileo Galilei series. Named after the great physicist, astronomer and humanist, the watch was a remarkable improvement on the perpetual calendar and allowed the firm to recapture its past glory. The watch even made it into the Guinness Book of World Records in February, 1989.

Since then, Ulysse Nardin has produced the San Marco, a limited edition minute repeater wristwatch available in gold or platinum, as well as the Tellurium Johannes Kepler and the patented GMT watch, which is intended for frequent travelers. In 1996, the company’s 150th Anniversary was celebrated with the introduction of the marine Chronometer 1846 as a wristwatch and the revolutionary Perpetual Ludwig was named after its creator, the brilliant and talented watchmaker/scientist, Dr. Ludwig Oechslin, the man behind the Astolabium series.

The single-button chronograph “Pulsometer” to commemorate Ulysse Nardin’s birth in 1823 was introduced in 1998, yet this was eclipsed the following year when the firm debuted the GMT Perpetual, two unique and exclusive Ulysse Nardin creations integrated into one watch.

No doubt the year 2000 and beyond will bring more delightful innovations from this highly prestigious watch manufactory, but what is certain to remain consistent is the company’s dedication to producing only the finest quality timepieces. Indeed, their commitment to this ideal is evidenced in a recent statement by company president Rolf Schnyder, who remarked of his employees: “Their faith, loyalty, talent and commitment are essential to us in our quest to redefine the boundaries of mechanical watchmaking and to keep Ulysse Nardin in its pre-eminent position for the next 150 years.”

— From artoftime.com



Portrait of Ulysse Nardin



DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Happy Thanksgiving

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, November 3, 2006

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"The 10,000
Year Clock"
by Bob Linkenhoker

Time: 6:00 – Doors open for TWO
HOUR MART!

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:

To be announced

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "K" and "L"

Board Meeting:

Monday, November 6 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of:
Bob Linkenhoker's daughter
26211 San Rogue Dr.
Mission Viejo

