

Tic Talk Times



November 2008
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

General Meeting Oct. 3, 2008

A Horological Dynasty

President Dave Weisbart opened the meeting at 8:00. We had no guests. The Angel playoff game must have kept people at home. He thanked Ron and Debbie Abbott for the refreshments. Best wishes were sent to Dick Pridham for a speedy recovery and hurry back! The minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the Tic Toc Times. We need one more board member for the term beginning in January, 2009. Next year, we will need several. THIS IS A CRY FOR HELP!

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Elections and Membership Meeting

- This month, Chapter 69 will hold its election and general membership meeting. The following slate of officers and director will be presented:

Officers (1 year term)

President – Dave Weisbart
Vice-president – Doug Adams
Secretary – Julie Stevens
Treasurer – Bob Linkenhoker

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This month

Build a Clock in Your Kitchen!



Well, almost. This month's program will be given by our friend Jim Glidewell. He recently built a skeleton clock "without having a lot of expensive machinery." He documented the entire process, from idea to finished clock, and arranged it all in a PowerPoint presentation. We'll see how he started with sheet brass and formed it into a beautiful timepiece (although no Ginsu knives were involved).

Jim has presented several programs for Chapter 69, including restoring slate clocks and statue clocks, and he always has a lot of great ideas to share.



Message from the president

Giving Thanks

For many people, 2008 has been a year of anxiety and stress. With all that's happened in our country and the world, sometimes it's difficult to keep perspective in our own lives. I recently picked up the habit of listening to political talk radio while working in my shop – these days I'm getting better at turning the radio off before my blood pressure skyrockets.

You often hear that it's the little things in life that can help make it all worthwhile. So while we worry about the economy and the election (thank heaven that's almost over with!), I think it's good for the spirit to get out of the house, meet with friends you haven't seen for at least a month, and share your interests and passions for timepieces. Yes, I'm talking about coming to a chapter meeting.

Gas prices are down (but don't get me started on oil company profits), the Garden Grove freeway widening has really helped traffic (but let's not talk about mass transit issues), and clocks and watches remain high on the list of good investments (just let's not think about Wall Street). All this makes a Chapter 69 meeting an excellent value in education, entertainment and recreation. Escapism? Perhaps. But you can't convince me that we all couldn't use a little escape now and then – especially now.

As chapter president, I have much to be thankful for. First and foremost,

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Elections *(from page 1)*

Directors (2 year term)

Doug Lynn

Continuing in the second year of their terms as Directors (not up for election) will be Phyllis Adams, Ray Brown, and Debbie Abbott.

The floor will be opened for other nominations before the election. After the election, members will be encouraged to offer their input on the operations of the chapter.

The officers and director elected at this meeting will be installed at the January meeting.

Beginners' Corner

Greater Los Angeles Regional Exhibit Preview

Ray Brown will provide a preview of plans for the 2009 exhibit at the Greater Los Angeles Regional, GLAR, being held on February 6th and 7th in Pasadena. The exhibit this year will cover electric clocks that are powered from the electrical power grid or AC clocks. Ray will outline the plans for the exhibit and show some examples of clocks we will have or would like to have to show the history and evolution of these clocks over the last 90 years.

If you have an interesting clock, advertisements, or literature that you could provide for this exhibit, please contact Ray Brown for additional details on the exhibit submission.



President's Message *(from page 1)*

the fine people who work with me on the board of directors. I can't say enough about the Linkenhokers. Bob has been our able treasurer for many moons, and Cora Lee has been doing a fine job being in charge of membership. We'd be in dire straits without them. Likewise Doug and Phyllis Adams have been there when the chapter needed them. Ray Brown has taken on the daunting task of producing our newsletter and providing our chapter highlights for *The Bulletin*. He even learned how to use new software for the task! Julie Stevens came back to the board when I asked her to be our secretary, and she's done a fine job. And Debbie Abbott, who started coming to the meetings with her watch collector husband Ron, stepped in as Hospitality Chair! We especially appreciate her contributions.

I'm also thankful that Doug Lynn, a regular attendee at our meetings and potlucks, has agreed to take a position on our board. We will all be helping Doug to take on the duties of Mart Chair.

I'm thankful that our chapter remains fiscally solvent. I'm thankful that we have not had to cut back on the many services we provide to our members. I'm thankful for the excellent relationship we have with the management of the Acacia Grove Masonic Lodge. I'm particularly thankful for the NAWCC members from across the area who have come to our chapter to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for clocks and watches by giving a program.

So despite the perfectly coifed newsreaders who smoothly announce doom and gloom through your television set, we can have control over our own state of mind. We can meet with friends to laugh, learn and share.

See you at the meeting!

— Dave Weisbart

Examples of the variety of early to mid 20th century AC clocks to be displayed at the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Regional

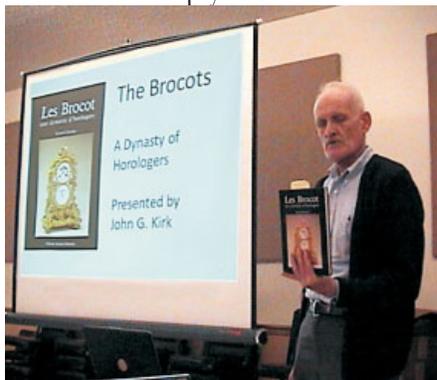


Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

Upcoming marts are Chapter 116, Arcadia, Sunday October 19; the Del Mar Regional, Nov 20-22, 2008, the Pasadena Regional Feb 2-5, 2009 and the National in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 10-13, 2009.

There was no old business and no new business. Bob Linkenhoker reminded everyone that today and tomorrow, Bud Saiben's clocks are being auctioned by Tom Harris. A special thank you went to Gene Osten for agreeing to audit our books this year.

In lieu of a Beginners Corner, Bob Linkenhoker discussed the "Revised Chapter Charter Proposal." National will ask any new chapter to sign this. All existing chapters are asked to comply. National will ask for a copy



of the chapter By-Laws, a copy of the financing report once a year and a copy of the membership list once a year.

The program for the evening was given by John Kirk from Santa Barbara, "The Brocots – A Dynasty of Horologists." Much of John's information came from the book by Richard Chavigny, "Les Brocot, Une Dynastie D'Horologers." Sound simple? Not really! This book is only in French, so John translated much of the book to English. This project started when Dean Armentrout asked John some questions about Brocot.



- Louis arrived in Paris in 1803 not only being able to read, but with a good foundation in mathematics at a time when only 10% of the French population could even read
- After a horological apprenticeship, by 1812 he was an established clockmaker with an excellent reputation

John's presentation began with a brief history of French clock manufacturing in the early 19th century. John explained how the commercial market for Parisian clocks, *Pendule de Paris*, was supported by use of *ébacuches*, rough clock movement without escapements that were made outside Paris, mostly in Provence. These *ébacuches* were

then finished by master clockmakers in Paris. One of these master clockmakers was Louis Brocot who started a "dynasty" including his sons and grandsons who not only were successful manufacturers but made major technical improvements to *le Pendule de Paris*.

John showed slides explained the development of the Brocot escapement and of the improved suspensions and

• Louis's escapement (1826)



- More easily fabricated than pinwheel
- (Nearly) deadbeat
- Robust and reliable
- BUT suitable only for half-second pendulums or shorter (large angular amplitude needed)

temperature compensated pendulums develop by the Brocots. The development of the first perpetual calendar was also a Brocot contribution. John concluded his presentation with a gallery of Brocot examples. This program is really an interesting one for everyone, watch, clock, sundial enthusiasts, etc. John generously allowed us to post his PDF file on our web site. Go to the home page of www.nawcc69.org for a link. He also mentioned that if we want to see what makes him tick, go to his website, www.geartrains.com.



- Fire-gilt bronze case, Type I perpetual calendar, visible escapement 1855-60
- Signed on dial "E. et E. Emmanuel"
- This lovely clock was made for the English market



- Achille Brocot year-running with strike, perpetual calendar, Moon phase, equation of time, aneroid barometer (all working!)

Show and Tell began with the letter L and there were NO items to show!

The lucky winners of the door prizes were Bill Clark, Ron Abbot and Daryle Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

*The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.*
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker
7186 Calico Cir.
Corona, CA 92881



Our Next Meeting: Friday, November 7, 2008

Program:

**LIVE PRESENTATION
"Build Your Own
Skeleton Clock"
by Jim Glidewell**

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:

"The 2009 Greater LA Regional Exhibit" by Ray Brown

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letters "M"

Board Meeting:

Monday, November 10 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of
Ray Brown
10432 Falcon Avenue
Fountain Valley 714-968-5526

