

## Meeting minutes – Nov. 7, 2003

### Silver and Black Forest

Our November meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8:00 p.m.

Welcome to our guests Jim Glidewell, Paul Campbell, Crist and Cheryl Wagner, Alan Hart, and Mason and Petty Compton!



*Dean Armentrout with a silvered dial*

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Hoke Dillon and “J.C.” John Roth. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

A motion was made to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes approved.

Thank you very much to Evelyn for this month’s refreshments!

Our Beginner’s Corner was “Dial Resilvering” by Dean Armentrout. Dean explained that you must always first consider if the numbers are silk-screened or engraved. If the

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## This month

### The Buying Continues

Buying vowels, that is. Our annual holiday party will see the return of “Gear of Fortune,” the spin-the-gear and guess-the-horological-phrase game hosted by Dave Weisbart and Julie Stevens. The game will feature all new puzzles, and *you* could be one of the winners of our “fabulous” prizes!

In addition, there will be a holiday sing-along featuring “The 12 Horological Days of Christmas” with live accompaniment and the words and pictures projected on the screen.

And to top it all off, we’ll have a 50-50 drawing, so you’ll have another chance at winning.

As we do each year, those who bring a plate of holiday treats to share will get free admission at the door. We always have a wonderful assortment of goodies on the refreshment table, so you don’t want to miss it!

The holidays bring out the best in everyone, and all our members have a wonderful time at our annual party. Come share the joys of the season with your friends this coming Friday at the Ebell Club.



## Message from the President

### Holiday Greetings

Now that we have given thanks for all our accomplishments and blessings for the past year, it is now time for us to plan for the coming year. Hopefully the new year will bring increased membership and renewed enthusiasm for our hobby of watches and clocks.

The officers and board of NAWCC Chapter 69 would like to extend wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year to the membership and their families.

Don’t forget the party – you’re all invited.

— *Charles Register*

### Things to be Thankful For

Our chapter has many wonderful resources for those interested in learning more about clocks and watches:

- **Mentoring program:** Gene Osten keeps a list of people in the group who’ve volunteered to share their expertise.
- **Library:** Dozens and dozens of the best books on horology. And don’t forget the videos! For just \$5.00 (plus a \$20 refundable deposit) you can rent a video for a whole month.
- **Bulletins:** The chapter owns a nearly-complete set of NAWCC Bulletins. See Dave Weisbart if you want to check one out.

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numbers are silk-screened you're going to lose them in the resilvering process. You might want to make a copy of the numbers before starting so that they may be duplicated later.

If the numbers are engraved, you're good to go! On engraved dials, examine the black material in the numbers. If a lot is missing, you can warm dial wax with a gas lamp, and fill in the engraved numbers. Dean has found that the edge of an old credit card works really well to level the wax.

To remove the old silver Dean uses a succession of sandpaper. First 320, then 400, etc. finishing up with 600 grit. This gets the dial down to the brass. Make sure that brass surface is very clean.

The next step is to wet the dial in lukewarm water and sprinkle on a developing powder. This prepares the dial to accept silver. Rub the powder into the wet dial with your fingers. As you do this, a paste will form.

Next, gently rinse the dial and, while it's still wet, sprinkle on the silvering powder and rub this in with your fingers. Continue to rub the powder into the dial until you have a nice silver finish. Rinse the dial off.

You should then go back to the original powder, sprinkle more of this on the wet dial and rub with your fingers. This will stop the silvering process and brighten the dial. Rinse again! You can choose reapply the silvering powder again at this point, if you feel you need more silver or if the finish seems uneven.

Finally, dry the dial well and once all moisture is gone apply lacquer. Dean used Krylon acrylic lacquer.

Dean, thank you for a really interesting Beginner's Corner!

Next came Les Lesovsky's presentation on Black Forest Clocks. Did you know that even though most people think of Black Forest clocks as being cuckoo clocks, they really represent just a small percentage of the clocks from this region?

The Black Forest is located in the Baden Wurttemberg region of Germany. The area suffers from harsh winters and it was during the winters that some people in the area began clock-making from about 1750 to 1850.

Clock peddlers (Uhrentrager) sold their clocks village to village. The trade was poor and since the clocks were relatively inexpensive, they started to consign clocks for sale.



From 1700 to about WWI the clocks produced were simple. The wood used for the clocks was plentiful, but the iron wire had to be bartered for.

The clocks slowly evolved. Early clocks had the time train in front and the strike train in the rear. Later, the trains were configured to sit side-by-side.

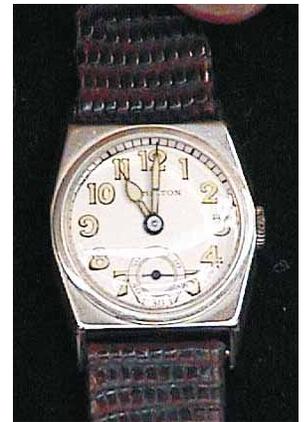
The faces seen on Black Forest Clocks (schilds) evolved into an art of their own. The skill of dial painting was originally handed down, but it was later taught in trade schools. You can sometimes find an artist's signature on the back of the clock face.

Paper transfer art for the faces appeared around 1870 as the mass production of the clocks started to outpace the schildmaller's (dial painter's) capacity. Besides trade schools for dial painting, a wood carving school was established to pass along the art applied to the wood cases that house the clocks.

Les also discussed some of the tools used to repair and restore these desirable clocks. He mentioned that one challenge is the fact that the wire and chain used are not what we would consider to be standard gauge and size. Les does suggest that when replacing wires, try to replace with stainless steel.

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

Mark C. brought in his Hamilton "O" watches. There were Ovals, Oakmonts, an Odyssee 2001, and an extremely rare white gold Oxford (right). Mark also showed us his "Oh my God" items! These were the



original dies used to transfer the numbers onto the faces of Hamilton watches. Mark recently obtained 380 original dies as well as the machine that the dies go into!

Tony Baker brought in two books by Rick Ortenburger. Not only is the author an "O" but both books happened to be on the subject of Black Forest clocks! (These books are beautiful!)

Bernie Peralta shared an Omega automatic (left). This one is sometimes referred to as a "thumper". Bernie also brought in a wonderful 18 karat Omega Speedmaster. This is a complicated watch with



## Minutes (cont.)

chronograph, moonphase, 24 hour dial, day, date, and month. Omega no longer makes this watch.

Bob Selene brought in a fascinating Swiss made oscillator (right). This clock was made around 1900 and has an 8 day jeweled movement.

Thanks to Julie Stevens for donating the camera tripod!

November's Board Meeting is at Ed Athey's home.

The door prizes were won by Mark C, Derald Kliem, Roy Crowe, John Viglione and Pat Saiben!

Don't forget to join us for the December meeting. We'll be playing Dave's "Gear of Fortune" and we'll sing "The 12 Horological Days of Christmas"! If you bring a plate full of goodies to share, your door fee will be waived. Hope to see you then!

The meeting was then adjourned by Charles.

*Respectfully submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary*



*"Cuckoo Egg" by Carl Fabergé, Russia (1900)*

*Gold, translucent enamel, pearls, and diamonds*

*A showpiece from the studio of the French goldsmith Fabergé*

*From Clocks & Watches by Johann Willsberger*

## 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](mailto:webmaster@nawcc69.org). You can also view the current and past issues at [www.nawcc69.org](http://www.nawcc69.org)

## Dave's Shop Talk

### Abusing Earl

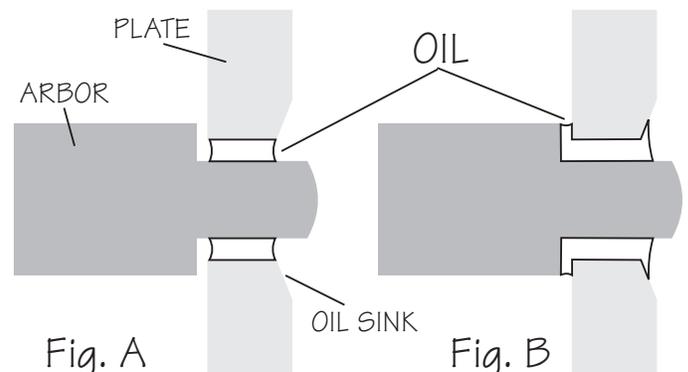
I'm told by my friend from Tennessee that's how it's pronounced there: O-I-L. Earl. I chose this topic because when it comes to clock movements, oil abuse is rampant. I rarely ever see a non-running movement that is dry, but on a daily basis I see movements that have been over-oiled, with usually dismal results.

How much is the right amount of oil to use on a pivot? See the figures below. In Figure A, there is just enough oil to cover the touching surfaces of the bearing hole and pivot. The exposed surfaces of the oil form a meniscus (defined by Webster as "The curved ... surface of a nonturbulent liquid standing in a container") which presents a very small area exposed to the air. This is the correct amount of oil to put on a pivot. In a practical view, you should just be able to detect the oil when looking under magnification at the gap between the pivot and the bearing hole.

Figure B represents how many people seem to oil their pivots. There are several problems with this kind of over-oiling. The increase in exposed surface area attracts dirt and hastens the breakdown of the oil. It also increases the risk that the oil will begin to drip out of the hole. Once that process starts, it can draw enough out of the hole that the meniscus is broken and even more surface area is exposed to air and dirt.

It is these pivots which, years after their oiling in this manner, come to me almost completely hidden by a black, sticky, gritty blob. When I remove the blob, there is invariably a badly worn bearing and a possibly scored pivot. Other movements seem to have been so drenched with oil, you'd think it was done by a stock-holder in Exxon-Mobil who was trying to boost business!

I hesitate to say "Less is More," but it's not far from the truth. Of course, when one errs on the side of too much oil, it's easier to spot the error than when not enough oil disappears into the bearing hole. So one needs to experiment with various application methods to find the best one for dispensing just the right amount of oil.



**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: December 5, 2003**

*Program:*  
**HOLIDAY PARTY plus  
Horological Game:  
"Gear of Fortune"  
by Dave Weisbart**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*  
No Beginner's Corner due to party

*Show & Tell:*  
Horological items beginning with the letter "P" or  
items purchased at the recent marts (Del Mar, etc.)

*Board Meeting:*  
The board gets a month off!

*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

**FREE ADMISSION WITH PLATE OF GOODIES!**

*Parking and entry  
off Mortimer St.*

