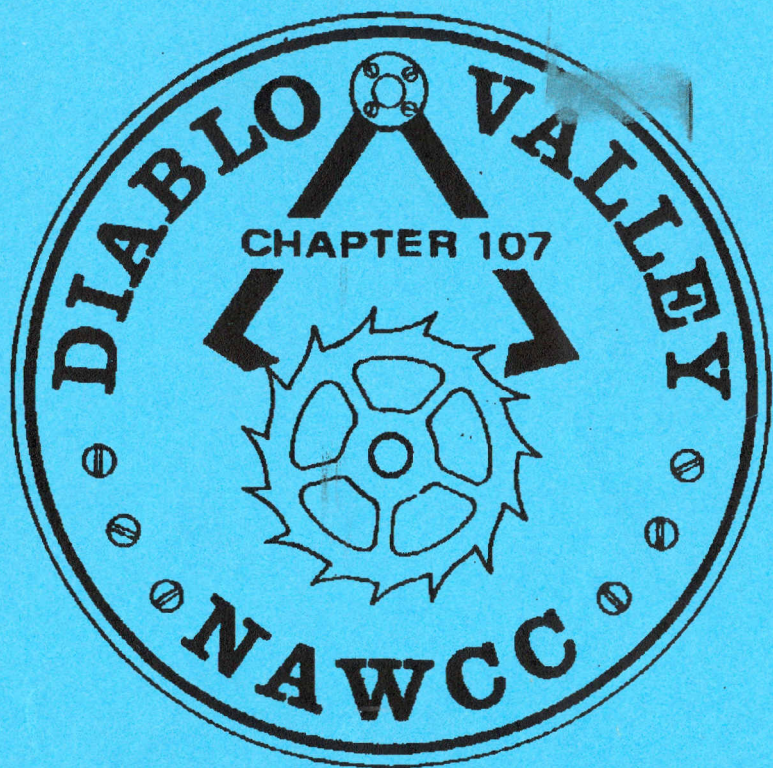


# BULLETIN



February 1999  
Volume 121

# DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Motto "Accent on Education"

MEETING DATES, MEETING TIMES, AND MEETING DIRECTIONS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE BULLETIN

## OFFICERS

President	G. Price Russ	925-937-9231
Vice President	John Stohr	925-376-6476
Vice President	Bob Waher	925-462-4912
Secretary	Lois Naye	925-934-4557
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260
Past President	Dale Gardner	510-531-7565

## DIRECTORS

1999	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144
1999	Marshall Kamena	925-568-3233
1999	Tom Armor	510-654-3363
1999	Garry Charland	925-946-1495
1999	Bert Bradly	510-527-3454

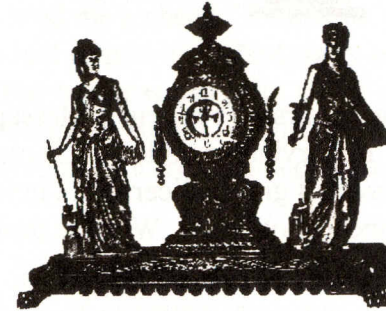
## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	****open****	
Raffle Drawing	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031
Library	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144
Library Storage	Roy Holman	510-530-5428
MART	****open****	
Membership	Roy Holman	510-530-5428
Nominating	John Stohr	925-376-6476
Photo	****open****	
Program	Bob Waher	925-462-4912
" "	John Stohr	925-376-6476
Refreshments	Sarah Russel	925-229-2462
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260
Bulletin/Editor	Bill Koppel	925-934-9391

# FEBRUARY 14, 1999 Meeting

Acalanes Adult Center

(The old Del Valle High School)



\*\*\*\*\* **TIMES** \*\*\*\*\*

Mart Setup/Start	11:00AM
Mart Ends	12:00Noon
Program Start	12:00Noon
Board Meeting *	After Program

\*All members are invited to attend

\*\*\*\*\* **PROGRAM** \*\*\*\*\*

## METAL POLISHING & LACQUER FINISHING BY RONALD BECHLER

Ronald Bechler, a member of San Jose Chapter 94 and a professional clock repairman will give a demonstration on metal polishing and lacquer finishing.

\*\*\*\*\* **DISPLAY** \*\*\*\*\*

Polished Metal Clocks.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sitting down to write my first "President's Message", I am realizing what a hard act I'm trying to follow. Chapter 107 has been blessed with a succession of great officers both in terms of personal attributes and horological knowledge. We owe these people a large **THANK YOU.**

I trust everyone had a joyous holiday season and is off to a good start in the New Year. The Christmas party was certainly a good kick-off for the season. This year promises to be exceptionally exciting with us hosting the Golden Gate Regional November 4 – 6. Jay Taylor is off and running with new ideas and plans to make this a true showcase event. Let's all give Jay our support. Remember we keep all the profits but are also responsible for any losses so lend a hand or two.

Speaking of regionals, in the December Bulletin Dale noted that the chapter realized nearly \$500 from the sale of materials at the October Golden Gate Regional. In accordance with emphasis on education, I would like to see us reinvest this money in horological education. If you have any ideas for educational projects, please, share them with me. I have one or two ideas, but would like additional input.

I was sorry to learn that Loren Scanlon has sold his business. Loren is a true gentleman, and he will be missed in his role as bookseller. Hopefully, he will stay active in the chapter. He will certainly always be welcome. I'm sure you all join me in offering him our sincere thanks for the many contributions he has made to the local

NAWCC chapters and our very best wishes for the future. I must relate a story about Loren. The first time I wanted to buy a book from him was at a Chapter 107 meeting. I was a new member who he didn't know from Adam. I had forgotten my checkbook so I asked Loren how I could go about getting the book. His response was "take it and send me a check." I think he even charged me less than the price he had posted on it. Not many people would do that. Thanks Loren! The business has been taken over by John Pierson of Pierson Horological Books (800-580-7701). He will be attending our meetings. Please introduce yourselves and make him welcome.

At our January meeting we watched a fascinating "movie" produced by Elgin in the late 1940's describing how they made jewels for watches, clocks, and other instruments. I highly recommend it. My thanks to Chapter 5 for letting us use it. At our next Friday meeting, I hope to show W. R. Smith's video on making gravers and turning. If you have a lathe or are thinking of getting one, you should watch this tape. The Friday meetings are a great opportunity to learn more of the how-to-do-it side of horology. Come and bring your questions. If there are topics you would like to see discussed or videos you think would be informative, please, share your thoughts with me.

Through the generosity of the City College of San Francisco, we have expanded both our written and tool libraries. These materials are here for your use. Take advantage of this opportunity. There are too many watch tools and parts to list in the Bulletin every month – see the October issue for an overview. Most of these materials are stored at my house. If you have a watch tool or part need, give me a call.

*Price Russ*  
gpruss@pacbell.net  
925-937-9231

## CLOCK ARTICLES

Here are some articles our members have cut out of their local newspapers.

**Seth R. Thomas**

Cleveland

Seth R. Thomas, a sixth-generation descendant of a 19th century clock maker of the same name, and himself a keeper of timepieces, died at the Cleveland Clinic on Monday. He was 58 and lived in Brecksville, Ohio, near Cleveland.

The cause was prostate cancer, the family said.

Mr. Thomas, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in metallurgical engineering from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., was a former vice president of technology at Thomas Steel Strip Corp. in Warren, Ohio. He also worked for Texas Instruments and Rodney Metals in Massachusetts. He was a fellow of the American Society for Metals.

Though the family sold Seth Thomas Co. in 1931, Mr. Thomas remained active in collecting and repairing Seth Thomas clocks and watches. He was the keeper of the Seth Thomas Tower Clock in Ravenna, Ohio, near Akron, and he was instrumental in having a clock tower included in plans for the Hiram College Library in Hiram, Ohio, which opened in 1995. He was a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

*New York Times*

From the Chronicle 10-1-97 submitted by Roy

## CLOCK QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Even a broken clock is right twice a day." Heard around work.

## Clockmaker's bequest will go to aid poor at last

Group of churches in Dutch city invests \$8,510 left by man in 1805, which is now worth \$4.9 million

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAARLEM, Netherlands — The bell has finally tolled for a 19th century clockmaker's last will and testament.

In 1805, Johannes Coloembie bequeathed \$8,510 to help the poor here with only one provision: the money could not be spent until 140 years after the death of his last servant, Dutch television reported. Coloembie died at 73.

The nest egg was invested by a group of local churches until Tuesday, when the cash could finally be distributed.

The trust is now worth \$4.9 million.

The group said the money will be spent helping the city's underprivileged, although no details of their plans were announced.

The bequest, which has been the subject of intense speculation here, might have been higher but was reduced by some failed investments.

The trustees took a big hit in 1917, when their shares in the Russian railroad were rendered worthless by the revolution that nationalized Russia's railways.

### Executive Admits Taking Millions to Buy Clocks

Camden, N.J. — A New Jersey executive admitted yesterday to embezzling \$12 million over eight years to buy one of the world's rare antique European clock collections that was auctioned at Christie's.

According to court papers and sources at the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey, Francis X. Vitale Jr. had the ability to personally approve purchases of up to \$1 million at the chemicals and metals firm Engelhard Corp.

By hiding them in what appeared to be normal business expenses, Vitale was able to purchase rare and valuable clocks from European dealers, prosecutors said.

From the Contra Costa Times recently submitted by Sarah Russel

From the Chronicle 4-10-98 submitted by Roy

## KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS YOUR NEW PRESIDENT — PRICE RUSS —

I was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, where I think I developed my first interest in clocks as well as others things mechanical. My father had a Brocot escapement French crystal regulator that his uncle had given him because it never ran well. Through various repairmen, my father continued the quest to keep it running for sixty years. Now I've had it about ten years and have had to overhaul it three times. The first time was through Royal's class, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

After high school, I attended the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, where I majored in chemistry and where they have a nice tower clock. From there I went on to graduate school at Caltech where I worked on lunar samples during the Apollo program. During this period I met and married Bernice. Our next stop was La Jolla for a post-doctoral research appointment at UCSD. My first *real job* was on the faculty of the University of Hawaii, if one can call living in Hawaii *real*. Finally in 1981 we settled down in Walnut Creek and I went to work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Along the way we generated two daughters who are now in college.

In the early 90's a couple of things happened that pointed me toward horology. One, I purchased a Hamilton 22 in need of a balance staff at a garage sale. Two, the crystal regulator, which I had by this time, stopped running again. I don't remember exactly how I ended up going to Royal with these problems, but I did. He, of course, suggested that I should take his course and start fixing my own clocks. I took his advice but have veered more into watches than clocks. I also started collecting both clocks and watches but on a smaller scale than many of you. My main horological interest is in trying to understand the engineering of precision timepieces.

## Clocks, Watches and Horology on the Internet

### By Jay Taylor

There are many useful and fun things to do on the Internet. One of my favorite has been all the Horological sites that can be found. From your Internet service provider or local library I highly recommend a trip around the world from your favorite computer.

A great starting place is:<http://www.horology.com> created and maintained by a NAWCC member Fortunat F. Mueller-Maerki. Here is the contents of the index..(and it grows from here) Internet Resources regarding Horology:

#### 1.HOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.Governmental Organizations
- 2.Membership Organizations
- 3.Educational Organizations: Schools & Courses, Research Centers
- 4.Educational Organizations: Horological Museums and Collections, Watch and Clock Museums (worldwide)
- 5.Commercial Organizations: (incl. Companies and Businesses,Repairers, Suppliers etc)

#### 2.INFORMATION SOURCES on HOROLOGY

- 1.Electronic Information on Horology: Horological Home pages
- 2.Electronic Information on Horology: e-mail addresses for cyber horologists (by name), (by geography)
- 3.Electronic Information on Horology: Other Electronic Media (Newsgroups, Directories, e-zines, Maillists, Bulletin Boards)
- 4.Horological Periodicals (Magazines, Newsletters, Journals)
- 5.Horological Libraries and Documentation Centers
- 6.Horological Books (Publishers, Sellers, Booklists, Bibliographies, Reviews)

#### 3.TIMEPIECES (Clocks and Watches)

- 1.Designing Timepieces
- 2.Making Timepieces Timepieces

- 3.Wholesaling and Retailing Timepieces
- 4.Repairing, Restoring and Conserving Timepieces
- 5.Buy, Sell and Trade Timepieces
- 6.Selling your timepieces
- 7.Collecting Timepieces
- 8.Information on specific Brands of Timepieces
- 9.Information on specific Types of Timepieces
- 10.Information on specific , unique timepieces

#### 4.SUBJECTS, ISSUES & TOPICS in HOROLOGY

- 1.Time Synchronization & Timekeeping Standards
- 2.Horological Software
- 3.Horological Science Issues
- 4.Horological Tools
- 5.History of Horology
- 6.Teaching about Time
- 7.Time and Time systems
- 8.Related & Misc.Topics
- 9.People in Horology

#### 5.THE EXACT TIME IS

- 1.What time is it? US Naval Observatory (USA) or National Institute of Standards, USA (Java)
- 2.Exact computer time set by modem
- 3.The exact time by telephone (USA)
- 4.All other time zones
- 5.Timezone converter
- 6.Misc. Locations around the world (also includes whimsical time displays from around the world)

Link of the month (Editors Choice):Musée de la Montre in Villers-le-Lac (France) Site by Damien Roth

Many of the above items are linked again to numerous other sites around the world. My only problem is once I start I find myself many hours later still looking at various museum display pieces, reading articles and just plan having fun exploring.

Another use of the Internet is shopping and selling. As many of my

friends agree it is the flea Market of the 21st Century. The bargains are there for the taking if you spend the TIME.

Here are a couple of examples. I like to shop through several on-line auctions. My favorite so far is Ebay. [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) You can look through various categories and topics to look for all kinds of items. As advertised on Ebay 11/10/98: 945,687 items for sale in 1,086 categories now! Over 30 million items for sale on Ebay since inception! 110,700,141 bids made since inception!

Here are the sample major categories:

- Antiques (22044)
- Books, Movies, Music (91908)
- Coins & Stamps (36016)
- Collectibles (339811)
- Computers (33888)
- Dolls, Figures (24328)
- Jewelry, Gemstones (35792)
- Photo & Electronics (15088)
- Pottery & Glass (70664)
- Sports Memorabilia (109447)
- Toys & Beanies® (117849)
- Miscellaneous (54100)

The number behind each is how many, under collectibles you will find:

- Clocks, Timepieces (4514)
- Clocks (1475)
- Pocket Watches (903)
- Wrist Watches (1701)
- Other Timepieces (82)
- Miscellaneous (353)

When using the auction houses it is important to understand the rating systems or feedback methods and potential liability. If large ticket items are purchased for a minimal fee you can use a broker that will handle the money and allow a 24 to 48 hour review of the

merchandise before funds are released. I have had several friends use this service for expensive items with no problems. Under each individual item you will find terms and conditions of the sale and payment methods.

Just as a sample I have been able in the last 6 months to purchase numerous out of print Horological books at very reasonable prices. I purchased a 1913 glass slide of the Greenwich Observatory in England for \$3.00. I also purchased 5 years or app 40 original issue of the British Horological magazine from 1910 to late 1914 for only \$20.00.

The bargains are there and the world of clocks and watches are there for viewing. Try it if you have a computer at home or at your local library. Once you're hooked you're hooked. Remember for under a thousand dollars you can be online at home with a computer, monitor, printer and modem and off exploring the world of Cyber Horology.

### CLUB RESOURCES

To help remind you what is available from your club and other sources. I plan to highlight a tool, a book, a vendor, and a web site in each of my messages. The tools and books will be available through the chapter. The vendor and web site are sources of information that I think are interesting and perhaps not widely known. - Price Russ

#### *Featured this issue:*

Chapter Tool Collection: Bench and hand micrometers – both metric. The bench micrometer complete with a platform to hold piece being measured is a great tool for measuring the diameter or thickness of small parts. If you don't have your own micrometers, borrow these from Price Russ.

Web site: Visit Derek Robert's: [www.qualityantiqueclocks.com](http://www.qualityantiqueclocks.com), to see the amazing clocks he is offering for sale. Browsing is free, beyond that you are accountable for your own sins – lust, greed....

## THIS MONTH'S TECHNICAL QUIZ

Here is this month's technical quiz. Just for a change I put in word search puzzle. Good Luck!

A N T I Q U E B R D W B D N D  
 C H E S P R I N G L A G E A R  
 W P I T S E N S B C V B G A E  
 N W U R A L C L O C K P A R T  
 T A P I N I O N B R E G C Z K  
 N T H K B E A R J E H A N D S  
 E S P E N D U L U M E N M W A  
 M R C A S C D H T E R S J N T  
 E X M I L E E H W D R O B R A  
 P T S H Y L F B P X F N R C E  
 A R T G N K E C A F M I S E W  
 C G O N S T A T L R V A J G R  
 S E V Q U E B B A W B R I R S  
 E D I A L N M L B R I D G E T  
 E R P U L E A I Y R K O F V E

ALARM	DIAL	PENDULUM
ANSONIA	ESCAPEMENT	PINION
ANTIQUUE	FACE	PIVOTS
ARBOR	FLY	SPRING
BEAT	GEAR	STRIKE
BOB	HANDS	VERGE
BRIDGE	PALLET	WHEEL
CLOCK		

### TOOL LIBRARY

The following tools are available for two-week periods.....at NO COST! call Walt Hubrig @ 510-685-0260

- \*\*\* L&R Ultrasonic Cleaner w/basket 11 3/4" x 9 3/4" x 6"
- \*\*\* TIMETRAX #160AC Timing m/c with beat amplifier
- \*\*\* Webster Depthing Tool
- \*\*\* Webster Escape Wheel Tooth Straightener
- \*\*\* Power Punch ( for end holes in mainsprings etc.)

## DUES DUE

It's renewal time again- Membership is still only \$15.00 a year and is now due for 1999. You may pay at the next meeting or mail a check to our membership chairman:

Roy Holman  
 4300 Everett Ave.  
 Oakland, CA 94602

Fifteen dollars for the year includes your spouse. Please make out checks to Diablo Valley Ch. 107. Your badge can be picked up at the next meeting you attend.

### CHAPTER #107 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December, 1998

No meeting was held after last Sunday's meeting. Too much fun and food I was told.

### TECHNICAL HINT

Catalog: Know where to buy watch and clock jewels? Try Swiss Jewel Co. in Philadelphia, 215-925-2867 (FAX 215-922-3055). They are a manufacturer of new material not a supplier of old stock. - Price Russ

### LIBRARY CORNER

Chapter Library: Terminologie Numerotation: Dictionaire Horologer. Ever need to translate a horological term from one language to another? This book lists hundreds of terms in English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese or Chinese (we aren't sure which). It has pictures too.  
 - Price Russ

## CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

If any members are having problems or issues with transportation to and from meetings, let a director or officer know so we can help find a carpool. We want to keep our members coming to the chapter meetings on a regular basis.

Mart	Second Sunday	11:00AM	- Even numbered months
Chapter	Second Sunday	12:00PM	- Even numbered months
Board	Second Sunday	- following the Chapter Meeting	
Evening	First Friday	7:30PM	- Odd numbered months

### *1999 Meeting Dates*

#### SUNDAY & Board

February 14<sup>th\*\*</sup>  
 April 11<sup>th\*\*</sup>  
 June 13<sup>th\*\*</sup>  
 August 8<sup>th</sup>  
 October 10<sup>th</sup>  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> (luncheon)

#### FRIDAY EVE\*

January 8<sup>th</sup>  
 March 5<sup>th</sup>  
 May 7<sup>th</sup>  
 July 9<sup>th</sup>  
 September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 November \*

*\*where the first Friday conflicted with a Holiday we scheduled the second Friday. No November meeting due to Regional.*

*\*\* Dates are reserved at Del Valle High School. School will not reserve future dates due to expected construction/repair of classroom.*

### *Other Important Dates*

Greater Los Angeles Regional - February 26-27

Pacific Northwest Regional - May 6-8

Second Australian Regional - October 1-3

Golden Gate Regional - November 4-6 hosted by Chapter 107. Mark your calendars.

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

### *Sunday Meetings*

#### From Oakland - Highway 24 going East

Take Pleasant Hill Road South exit  
 At light, turn right onto Pleasant Hill Rd  
 At end, turn left on Olympic  
 At light, turn right onto Tice Valley  
 Go up until first light  
 Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1 (address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

#### From San Ramon - Highway 680 going North

Take South Main exit  
 Left on Newell  
 Left on Olympic  
 Left on Tice Valley  
 Go up until first light  
 Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1 (address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

#### From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

At 680/24 take Highway 24 to Oakland/Lafayette  
 Take first exit - Pleasant Hill Road South  
 Go under freeway onto Pleasant Hill Rd  
 At end, turn left on Olympic  
 At light, turn right onto Tice Valley  
 Go up until first light  
 Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1 (address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

### *Friday Technical Meetings*

Across Tice Valley road from the Acalanes Adult Center (directions above) at the Civic Bank of Commerce.

**Note: Due to our tax exempt status only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our MART - be prepared to show a current NAWCC membership card.**