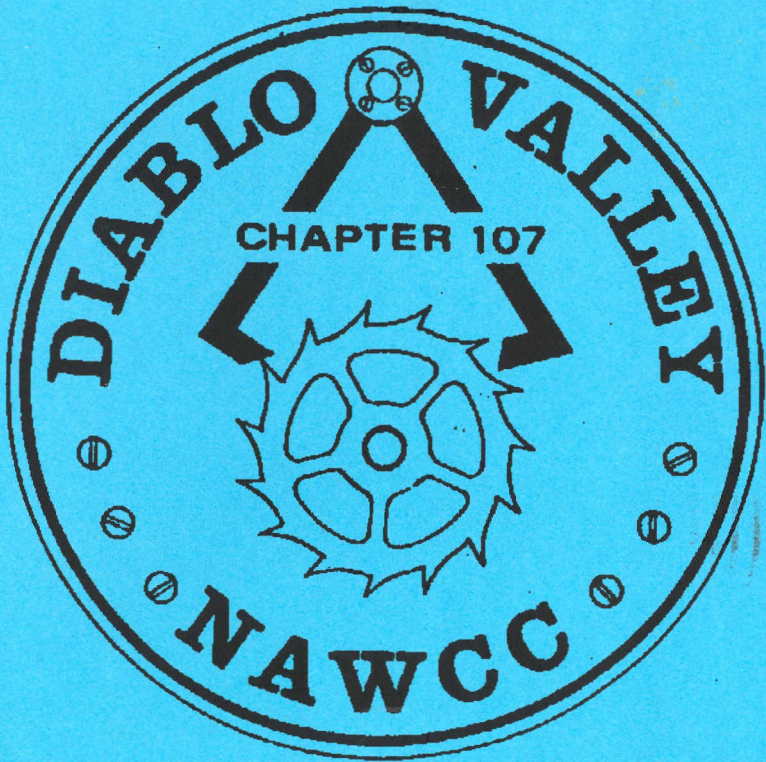


# BULLETIN



February 2000  
Volume 127



## DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors  
Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### Chapter Motto "Accent on Education"

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

#### OFFICERS

President	Tom Armour	510-654-3363	armourtom@aol.com
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Vice Pres.	Dale Gardner	510-531-7465	
Secretary	Lois Naye	925-934-4557	Lnaye@aol.com
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	
Past Pres.	G. Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

#### DIRECTORS

1999/2000	Bert Bradley	510-527-3454	
1999/2000		Garry Charland	925-946-1495
2000/2001	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144	
2000/2001	Bill Koppel	925-934-9391	wkoppel131@aol.com
2000/2001	Bob Waher	925-462-4912	

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	****open****		
Raffle	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	
Library	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144	
Libr. Storage	Roy Holman	510-530-5428	rholmanjr@juno.com
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Refreshment	Dale Gardner	510-531-7565	
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	
Editor	Bill Koppel	925-934-9391	wkoppel131@aol.com

## ONE WEEK EARLY FEBRUARY 6, 2000 Meeting Acalanes Adult Center (The old Del Valle High School)

**NOTE  
THE  
DATE  
CHANGE**



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

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

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

#### "FILOLI AND ITS CLOCKS"

Tom Rogers, Curator of Filoli, will be our guest speaker. (For a description of Filoli see our August 1999 bulletin). Walt Hubrig, Dale Gardner, Jay Taylor, and John Stohr, our technical experts will display the movements they have worked on and give us a blow by blow description of the work they have done.



## *President's Message*

Another year and a whole millennium has slipped by. Our illustrious DiabloValley Chapter has a bit of a different look. A new sprinkling of officers and directors have been added to those "old", steady, loyal, and long working members who have kept us in balance and moving forward these many years. What would we do without that nucleus of workers, always there? I pointedly want to thank Price Russ, our now Past President; Jay Taylor, our Regional Chairman; and our always untiring mentor, John Stohr, for a very productive year, a year in which we can be justly proud.

Looking ahead, I am particularly anxious that we have a record breaking attendance at our next meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2000. Please note, THAT DATE IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL. It's the FIRST Sunday, not our traditional SECOND Sunday, It should be a great meeting and I'm excited about it because it reflects our Chapter's Motto "Accent on Education", and also our commitment to render Public Service to the Community. As you may know, for the past two months, members of our Chapter have been working on a project to restore the movements on four 18th-19th century tall case clocks from the impressive Filoli House-Museum in Woodside. Filoli is a Property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, and operated by Filoli Center, a nonprofit foundation.

The Georgian style, 43 room Filoli was built for Mr. and Mrs. William B. Bourn II, owners of the Empire Mine in Grass Valley. It was designed by Willis Polk and completed, with it's extensive formal gardens, in 1917. After the death of the Bourns in 1936, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Roth of the Matson Lines. Mrs. Roth donated the house and the gardens to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975. Our guest speaker on Sunday, February 6 will be Filoli's Curator, Tom Rogers, who will give us a background on this historic house, it's furnishing, gardens, and four

tall case clocks.

Some of our members went to Filoli in late October and removed the clock movements from their cases. John Stohr, Walt Hubrig, Dale Gardner, and Jay Taylor have restored these movements and will have their finished works and the handsome dials set up and running at our Sunday Meeting. They will give us a "Show and Tell", a blow by blow description of their restorations and discoveries. We will install the restored movements at Filoli on the following Tuesday, February 8, 2000.

I hope we can have a record breaking attendance at this first meeting of the millennium. I urge all our members and their guests to be on hand for this special event. Don't miss it!

Tom Armour  
<armourtom@aol.com>  
510-654-3363

## MISCELLANEOUS

I recently saw a device sold that was made to protect a grandfather clock. It looked like a bolt with a hole in it. You screw it into the wall behind the movement then put a padlock through the hole.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." - Calvin Coolidge

Remember this when that clock you've been working on just refuses to be fixed.



## THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/AUCTION

The Christmas luncheon and auction was again a stunning success. It was real enjoyable getting a chance to talk with people. There were a number of great clocks being sold and some fine bidding.. Thanks to Walt Hubrig for setting it up and to Jay Taylor for being our the auctioneer again this year.

### PATEK PHILIPPE By Bill Koppel

An article in the Santa Anita Chapter 116 Bulletin that John Stohr forwarded to me started me on this hunt. It stated a 1925 Patek Philippe recently sold for \$11,002,500 at a Sotheby's auction. I like everyone else has heard of this watch company but didn't know much about it. Therefore, I read up a little about the company and then went out on the web (Patek Philippe has a great web site, WWW.PATEK.COM). Here is a little of what I came up with.

In 1851 Patek Philippe & Co. became the official name of the company started in 1844 by Antoni Norber Patek de Prawdzic born June 12, 1812 in Poland. The name change reflected the contributions to the company by Jean Adrien Philippe the technical director. The last relative of Patek's ended his relationship in 1901 but members of Philippe's family are still involved.

The company is known for its innovation and high quality and prides itself in having great people own their watches. A couple of the people who have owned these watches are Queen Victoria and Albert Einstein. The following are some of their most important patents.

1317 The Keyless Watch	1016 Disjointed Winding haft,
26413, 280067 Gyromax Balance	298564 Photoelectric Enrgy,
340191 Time-zone watch	556567,607869 Nautilus Wrist-watch,
595653 The Caliber 240	608702 Fold-over Clasp,
653841 Perpetual Calendar	685462 Snapon Cannon Pinon
685585 Annual Calendar	686545 Isolated Fly-back Hand

If you are thinking about joining this company it might be noted that Master watchmakers must undergo what amounts to a second apprenticeship once they join the company. Also it might be noted that this is one of the few companies that will put any design you wish on the watch. Their painters of their miniature work with just one hair on their brush.

### NEW ACCURATE CLOCK

The Commerce Department's National Institutes of Standards and Technology on December 20, 1999 debuted its new clock. It's the world's most accurate clock sharing the distinction with a similar fountain clock in France. The cesium fountain atomic clock is accurate to within one second every 20 million years. (About the same as a Sessions Black Mantel I have.)

The device is a 5-foot tall cylindrical vacuum chamber. A gas of cesium atoms is released inside the chamber, and six infrared lasers placed at right angles around the perimeter press the atoms together into a ball, slowing their movement and dropping their temperature close to absolute zero. Next, two vertical lasers toss the ball of cesium gas upward through a microwave-filled cavity. Gravity pulls the ball back through the cavity. They interrogate the atoms as it falls deriving a time.



## MORE Y2K

Below is an article printed in the June 1987 issue of our bulletin. When I asked for old articles of interest to us today Jack Coulter suggested this one. I think it is very appropriate given all the Y2K hype we gone through and because of the other new clock issue contained in this bulletin.

### Calendars

#### Julius Caesar Vs Pope Gregory XI11

"Happy New Year", it was March 25, 1752. Yes, March 25th was our New Year's day, but then it changed.

It is true Calendars have not been and are still not perfect. Records show the Egyptians had calendar problems in 330 B.C. "Greeks also had their problems. The old Roman calendar was off 3 months from sun solstices.

Then in 46 B.C, a Greek astronomer named Sosigenes was directed by Julius Caesar (who ruled the Roman Empire) to devise a new calendar. It had 365 days and an extra day (Leap Year) each four years. It had 12 months and days alternated 30 and 31 each month except February, (Sound familiar?). This is called the Julian calendar after Julius Caesar. We still use this concept.

The new Calendar worked great. But in 730 AD, an Anglo Saxon monk named Venerable Bede, found the Julian year was too long by 11 minutes and 14 seconds. Big deal except this small error was equal to a one day error every 128 years-and after 750 years the calendar had a six day error. But nothing was done about the error for another 800 years. By 1582 the Julian Calendar was now 10 days out of whack. It was headed for June weather in January,

In 1582 AD, Luigi Lilio Gheraldi convinced Pope Gregory XIII to make the needed calendar correction. What a change! Over the

Vigorous opposition Pope Gregory the Great decreed that on the *day* following October 4, 1582, it would be October 15, 1582. Ten days were wiped out, eliminated. Most European countries immediately accepted the Calendar correction, but not all including Great Britain. To compensate for the 11 minute, 14 seconds yearly error which amounted to 3 days every 400, Pope Gregory said there would be no Leap Years in centesimal years (years ending in 00) and not divisible by 400. Thus no Leap Years in 1300, 1800, 1900, but one in the year 2000. This is the Gregorian correction to the Julian Calendar.

It was almost 150 years later in 1752 before the British Parliament imposed the Gregorian Calendar corrections on the British Empire which included the American Colonies. The correction: September 3, 1752 legally became September 11, 1752. Great Britain had now wiped out eleven days. At this same time New Year's day was changed from March 25 to January 1. (e.g., Under the old calendar March 21, 1700 was followed by March 25, 1701).

To correct any confusion (7) days before Sept. 2, 1752 were called Old Style (O.S.), days after Sept 11, 1752 were called New style (N.S.). George Washington's birthday was Feb. 11, 1731 (O.S.) and then became Febr. 22, 1732 to think all this happened because of 11 minutes and 14 seconds. Are you a N.S. or a O.S.? So be it.

But wait, the Gregorian change still left an error of 26.3 seconds each year. But don't despair one day will be added in the year 4316. Wait, this is not the end. The year is increasing by .53 of a second every 100 years as the solar year is getting shorter - had enough. The National calendar Committee is proposing 13 month year. The new month would come before July and be called 'SOL'. This is enough!

Phil Russell



## CLEANING AN ALARM CLOCK

Hal Montano provided me with an interesting pamphlet copyrighted 1944 "How to Repair and Service Alarm Clocks". The introduction states with the shortage of new alarm clocks and so many clock repairmen in the armed forces it is up to you to keep your alarm clock in serviceable condition. It goes on to describe the parts of an alarm clock and let the person reading it know to fix one.

The next part describes how to clean an alarm clock. It first states that clocks often fail to the need for cleaning but that it is not necessary to disassemble the clock to clean it. It is not even necessary to remove the dial. Here is how they suggest cleaning it:

With a small bristled brush, fairly stiff, dipped in benzine or cleaning fluid, secured at most any drug store, you will brush all the bearings, all the teeth of all the wheels in the train and most certainly, the pivots of the balance wheel (they are pointed). Do this while the movement is intact, but in some clocks you may you may have to remove the bell of the alarm as it prevents you from brushing the pivots thoroughly enough. Incidentally regarding the brush, the tow row bristled tooth brush would work fine, you could trim down the celluloid handle a bit in order to better and more easily get to places in the movement. The pivots and the small wheels are by far the most important to brush absolutely clean inasmuch as they are not able to overcome as much friction caused by gummy oil and dirt, as the larger and more slow moving wheels. Never simply 'dunk' the entire movement in kerosene or some such substance, as this ruins and discolors the dial, and generally makes a messy job as it does not evaporate quickly and leaves an obnoxious odor. Neither does it clean the parts that must be clean as a benzine, cleaning fluid or carbon tetra chloride cleaner would do.

What say our clock experts.

## 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.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year.

Please note that I have updated Lois Nye's email address. The 'L' in the address needs to be capitalized. I hate it but the case makes a difference in a lot of internet items.

I have updated the Officers for this year. Please review how I have listed your name and telephone number. I am notorious for typos. Also I need some help updating the officers from other chapters on page 14.

—Bill Koppel

## DATES TO REMEMBER Mark your Calendars

<i>Mar 24-25</i>	Arizona Sunshine Regional
<i>May 11-13</i>	Pacific Northwest Regional
<i>Jul 5-8</i>	National Convention in Philadelphia, PA

## THIS MONTH'S TECHNICAL QUIZ

1. How were the late 1800's Seth Thomas clocks impacted by Y2K.
2. What does the term EBAUCHE mean when discussing watches?
3. What is a torsion pendulum?
4. What is a diode?
5. How can I get a better understanding of how the Cesium clock discussed in this bulletin works?

1. Did you really expect an impact? You have been listening to those news casters again.
2. Ebache is a french term which describes an uncompleted watch movement delivered to a manufacturer ready for the addition of manufacturer's own escapement, timing system and mainspring and signature.
3. A torsion Pendulum is the pendulum used in 400 day clocks and Atmos clocks. It is composed of a bob attached to a thin wire (suspension springs. It rotates, moving first one way then rotating the other.
4. A diode is an electronic device which allows current to flow in one direction only.
5. I don't really get it either. Talk to Price Russ.

Answers to this Month's Technical Quiz

## CHAPTER #107 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 1999

No regular board meeting held in Dec. as this is the time for our Christmas luncheon .

New officers were elected for the year 2000. They are: Tom Armour- President; John Stohr and Dale Gardner-Vice Presidents; Lois Naye-Secretary; Walt Hubrig- Treasurer and Sandy Cuthill, Bill Koppel Bob Wahrer, Ben Bradley, Gary Charland- Directors. Tom Armour, our new President, gave a few highlights of the meeting he has planned for February.

— Lois Nye, Secretary

## TOOL LIBRARY

The following tools are available for two-week periods.....at NO COST! call Walt Hubrig @ 925-685-0260

- \*\*\* 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.)

## CLOCKMAKERS CAN DO OTHER THINGS Contra Costa Times January 16, 2000

1775: The flush, redux. Alexander Cummings, a watchmaker, patents one of the first practical toilets. It features a cistern overhead, a valve at the base and a "stink-trap." Unfortunately, what goes in must come out. (Sewers were rare.) A curiosity until the next century.



**CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS\***

*Meeting Days and Times\*\**

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

*2000 Meeting Dates*

SUNDAY & Board

February 6<sup>th</sup>  
 April 9<sup>th</sup>  
 June 10<sup>th</sup>  
 August 13<sup>th</sup>  
 October 8<sup>th</sup>  
 December 10<sup>th</sup> (luncheon)

FRIDAY EVE

January 7<sup>th</sup>  
 March 3<sup>th</sup>  
 May 5<sup>th</sup>  
 July 7<sup>th</sup>  
 September 1<sup>st</sup>  
 November 3<sup>rd</sup>

\*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.

\*\*Dates may vary due to conflicts. No November meeting due to Regional.

**Other NAWCC Chapter Meetings in Northern California**

Chapter	Meeting Address	President	Meetings
<b>De Anza #94</b>	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	Ron Bechler (408) 926-3212	1st Sunday even months (except April)
<b>Monterey Bay #70</b>	Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 17th Ave Santa Cruz, CA	Robert E. Moore (408) 728-4211	3rd Sunday odd months
<b>Sacramento #71</b>	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	Mike Slater (916) 442-6183	4th Sunday odd months
<b>San Francisco #5</b>	San Leandro Boys & Girls Club 401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	Jay Taylor (510) 522-2409	2nd Sunday odd months (except May)

**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.**