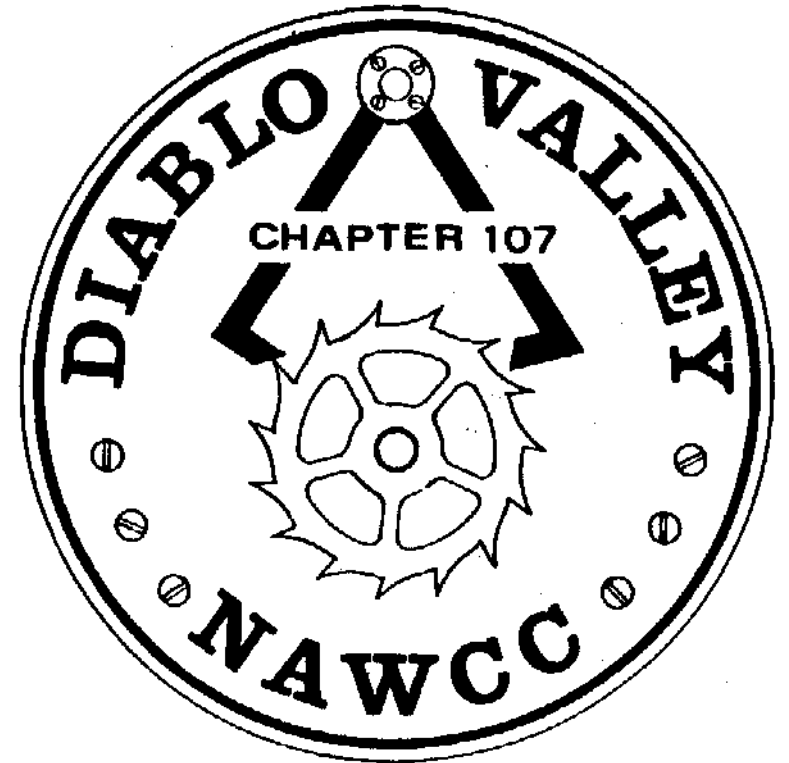


BULLETIN



April 2003
Volume 146

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

OFFICERS

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Meeting Notices

APRIL 13

Mart 11:30 (Bring something to sell)

Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

Restoration of the San Francisco Ferry Building Tower Clock

By Dorian Clair



Dorian will tell us all about his recent restoration of this famous clock and perhaps a bit about the inside politics. Did you know that that the dial circles on the Ferry Building Tower are almost as large as the ones on the Great Clock at the Palace of Westminster (22' vs. 22.5')?

President's Message

Yes! It looks like springtime is approaching fast and it will be here officially by the time that you read this. I hope that all is well with everyone as we begin a new season.

Our February meeting was held in an alternative room that was somewhat crowded, but thanks to Bob Yeoman's presentation it turned out to be a success. Bob's lecture and demonstration on pivot replacement and polishing was very informative. This program was originally scheduled for last autumn and had to be rescheduled. It was worth the wait. Thanks again Bob.

Dorian Clair will be presenting the program for the next meeting, April 13. Dorian will tell about the restoration of the tower clock at the San Francisco Ferry terminal. This should be very interesting. We should be back in our regular room, so there should be space for everyone.

The ballots for the election of Officers of the NAWCC should be in the mail by now. I hope that everyone took the time to mark and send in their ballot. We should hear the results in a month or so. I feel that it is important that we on the west coast participate in the national organization.

We are still soliciting suggestions for programs to present at future meetings. There is so much talent and knowledge in our chapter that could be shared. Please let me, or any other officer, know of your interests.

See you April 13, 2003.

Bob Wahner

Editor's Section

I have decided not to include the tool list in every issue. It doesn't change very often. Including it every time seems like a waste of space. My remarks this time will be short to leave space for other, probably more interesting, topics. I would just like to congratulate the charter members who are still in Chapter 107 and thank them for their service throughout the years. I particularly want to thank Sandy Cuthill, the only Library Chair we have ever had. Way to go Sandy!

Price Russ

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆☆ **TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY** ☆☆☆

☆☆ Chapter 107 quietly celebrated its silver anniversary on ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ March 5. Amazingly almost 30% of the charter members ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ still belong to the chapter. They are **Jim Azeltine, Leo-** ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ **nard Boone, Gareth Busher, Jean Busher, Jack Coul-** ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ **ter, Fred Cuthill (1st VP), Sandy Cuthill (Sect.), Royal** ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ **English (Dir.), Jerry Kroeger, and Gordon Richards.** ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ In addition to being secretary Sandy Cuthill was Library ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Chairman. Now we use the term "Chair". Regardless of ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ the label, Sandy still holds the position. ☆☆☆

☆☆ The other charter or at least first year members were An- ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ dre Aldenhuysen, Roger Campbell (Dir.), Pat Erickson, ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Russell Erickson, Clayton Ferguson, Ralph Flecher, Don- ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ ald Giannini, Dorothy Glenk, W.A. Glenn, Bob Gustafsen ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ (Dir.), Scott Hampton (Dir.), Warren Hampton, Karl ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Kochman, George Loquvam, Bennie Martinez, Jim ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ McElroy, K.H. McKaig, Bruce Millar (Dir.), Charles ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Moorehouse, Dave Morgan (2nd VP), John North, Stan ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Peterson, Phil Russell, Dorothea Sanderson (Pres.), John ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ Sanderson (Treas.), Carl Walker and Roger Wilcox. Even ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ relatively new members will recognize some of these ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ names as major contributors to horology and the ☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆ NAWCC. ☆☆☆

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SPECIAL THANKS

The sales of books and tools from the Russell collection held at the last meeting netted \$131.50 (books) and \$188.35 (tools). The chapter is indebted to Fred Bausch for generously donating these materials and the ones we added to the book and tool libraries. Thanks also to Dale Gardner for facilitating the deal. If you think it wasn't a lot of work, take a look at this photo.



The Gardners also deserve thanks for routinely taking and donating the pictures that appear in our *Bulletin*. Their generosity makes the "0" budget entry for photos possible.

NEWS FROM OTHER AREA CHAPTERS

The Dr. Stephens Chapter has a new email address:
www.whistlings.com/chapter_5.htm

Chapter 94, De Anza, now meets on the second Sunday of even months. (Yes, that is the same time we meet.)

Try to say this quickly three times: "Which wrist watch is the Swiss wrist watch."

Contributed by Bob Wahrer

2003 Budget

1/10/2003

Income:

CD Interest	700
Memberships	700

Other

Auction Sales	250
Regional	0
Christmas Lunch	350

Total Income	2000
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Expenses:

Discretionary	
Door Prizes	-170
Food & drink - Christmas	-700
Food & drink - Meetings	-100
Food & drink - Picnic	-200
Library - Books	-50
Library - Tools	-0
Miscellaneous	-0
Photos	-0
Regional	-0
Mandatory	
Postage	-180
Printing	-250
Insurance	-270
PO Box	-80
Rentals - Acalanes	-0
Other	-0

Total Expenses	-2000
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Difference	0
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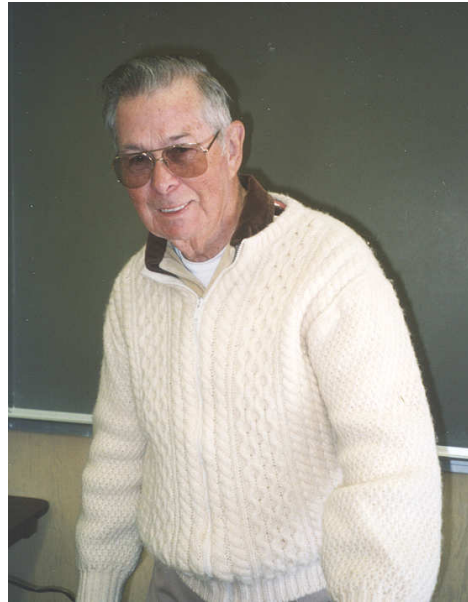
Joan Holman and Carolyn Armour relaxing



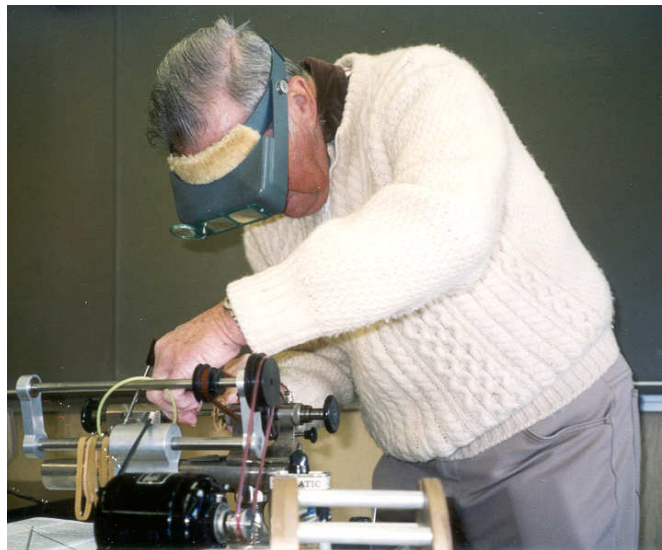
Lois Naye and Linda Towers shopping for rings

February 2003 Meeting

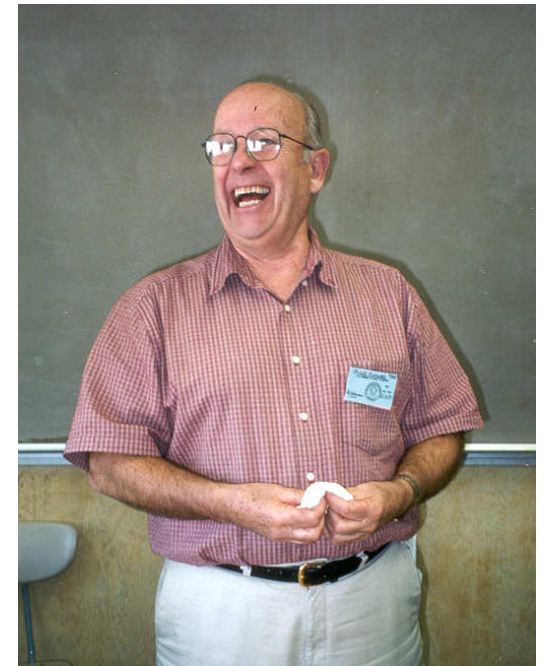
Photos by Sophia Gardner



Speaker Bob Yeomans



Harold Montano and Jack Coulter discuss dials and donuts while Tom Armour works behind the scene.



A happy Miles Maynard

Wait. Don't

Answers to last issue's questions

The man with the famous physicist is Frank Hope-Jones (1867-1950). As noted in the previous *Bulletin* he was the inventor of the Synchronome, a clock with essentially a free pendulum. The photo and a note from Einstein are on the frontispiece of his book. The Synchronome was the basis for the Shortt regulators, which were among most precise mechanical clocks ever built. A very good discussion of electrical horology with animations can be found at www.mypage.bluewin.ch/electric-clocks/. By the way, the inventor of the Wurlitzer theater organ, Robert Hope-Jones was Frank's older brother.

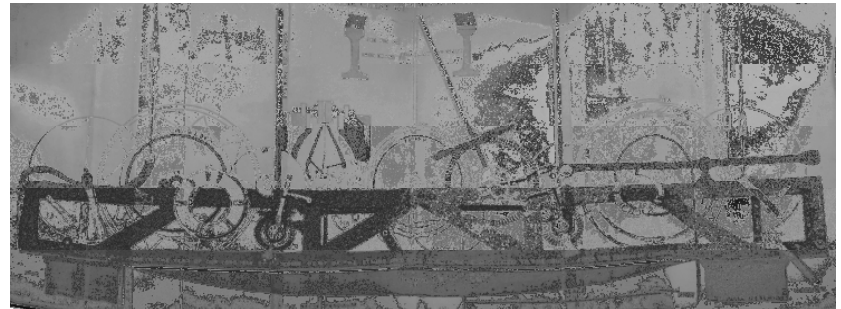
The pocket watch is a "Nuremberg Egg" from around 1550. It has a verge escapement with foliot and stackfreed. Stackfreeds and later fusees were used to compensate for variations in spring tension. Without them spring driven verge watches would not have been successful. Nuremberg Eggs, named for the oval shape of the movement, were the first pocket watches. This watch is in the collection of the Bayer Museum, Zurich.

The tools are a group of swing polishers in frames. The illustration is from Crom's *Horological Shop Tools*. A swing polisher must be used to obtain a "dead flat polish". The work to be polished is mounted on an arbor which is held between centers in the swing. This assembly is then swung on centers such that the face to be polished is exactly aligned with the horizontal centers. By doing this, the work swings to compensate for the operator's inability to keep the polisher exactly flat on the surface while polishing. With the swing, any time the operator makes a movement that is not parallel to the surface, the work swings to cancel the error. Without the swing, the part will be rounded at the edges. This may not effect function, but it is considered unaesthetic.

Tell Me!

New Questions

Can you identify these three important tower clocks? Where are they, when were they made, who made them, and why are they famous?

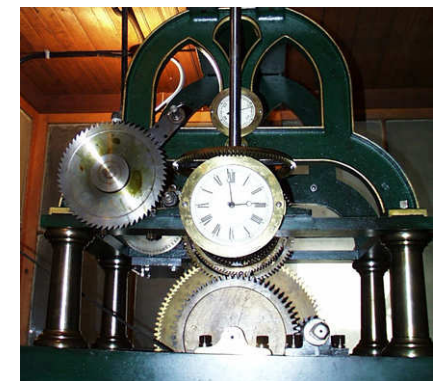


Plan for Clock No. 1

(Sorry about the picture quality. It is from a fold out illustration in an old book.-ed.)



Clock No. 2



Clock No. 3

BIG BEN AND THE PIPS

Big Ben is the 13-ton bell in the Clock Tower of the Palace of Westminster that strikes the hours. It was named after Sir Benjamin Hall. Four smaller bells chime the quarters. The Palace, which also houses Parliament, was designed by Charles Barry to replace one destroyed by fire in 1834. The clock, designed by Sir Edmund Beckett (Lord Grimthorpe), and its bells became operational in 1859. (See <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/fs48.pdf> for more details on the palace.)

As part of the 1924 New Year celebration, BBC started broadcasting Big Ben striking the hour. These broadcasts were a comfort to Britons throughout World War II because they confirmed that the tower had not been bombed. (Other parts of the Palace including The House of Commons were bombed.) In the summer of 1923 Frank Hope-Jones (more on page 10) and Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, conceived the idea of broadcasting a series of “pips” over the radio that could be used to accurately set timepieces throughout the country and for that matter the world. The pips were tones at one-second intervals starting at 5 seconds before the hour. The final, sixth, tone began exactly on the hour and lasted twice as long as the others. A recording of the pips can be heard at “greenwichmeantime.com/info/bbc-pips.htm”. Prior to the introduction of the pips, BBC announcers based time reports on a series of master and slave clocks provided by none other than The Synchronome Company.

Beckett’s *Clocks and Watches and Bells* contains a wealth of information on the design and construction of the Westminster clock. There is also a wealth of information on the web.

Dale Gardner & Price Russ

TOOL LIBRARY

Contact **Walt Hubrig** (925-685-0260) or **Price Russ** (925-937-9231) for information on the tools and parts available for use by Chapter members. These are available at no cost.

\$ \$ DUES OVERDUE \$ \$

If you have not paid your chapter dues for 2003, please, do so immediately. Otherwise you will be dropped from the mailing list. Dues are still only \$15.00. This includes your spouse. You may pay at the April meeting or mail a check to Roy Holman at 4300 Everett Ave., Oakland, CA 94602.

INTERESTING NEW GADGETS

Laser Micrometer: Those who think their bench micrometers are pretty swell have now been “one-upped”. Edmund Industrial Optics is now selling a laser scan micrometer. One just sticks an object in the beam and it reads the thickness with a reproducibility of 0.00002 in.. It can measure moving parts so no need to worry about your hands shaking. Given the price of \$6500, your hands may well shake.

Micro-metallizer Plating Pens: Hunter Products, www.hunterproducts.com, is marketing electroplating kits based on pens rather than plating baths. Pens are available for gold, silver, nickel, and several other metals. The cost of a kit including power supply is about \$300. Those doing lots of case or dial work might find these interesting. A similar device is advertised in the most recent *Horological Times*.

NOTICES FROM MEMBERS

(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological — wanted, for sale, giveaway, services, and so forth. There is no charge. All you have to do is supply copy to the editor.)

WANTED: SOMEONE TO STORE AND TRANSPORT THE LIBRARY. THIS IS A CRITICAL NEED. PLEASE HELP. CONTACT BOB WAHRER OR ANY BOARD MEMBER IF YOU CAN HELP.

CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

Days and Times

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

Future Meeting Dates

FRIDAY

May 2
 July - None
 September 5
 November 7
 January - None
 March 14, 2004

SUNDAY & Board

June 8
 August 10
 October 12
 December 14
 February 8, 2004
 April 14, 2004

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

Other NAWCC Chapter Meetings in Northern California		
Chapter	Meeting Address	Meetings
De Anza #94	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	2 nd Sunday even months (except April)
Monterey Bay #70	Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 17th Ave Santa Cruz, CA	3 rd Sunday odd months
Sacramento #71	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 th Sunday odd months
San Francisco #5	401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 nd Sunday odd months

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 Blvd. Go 0.9 miles.
 At light, turn right onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

From San Ramon - Highway 680 going North

Take Olympic Blvd. exit.
 Left on Olympic Blvd. Go 0.9 mile.
 At light, turn left onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

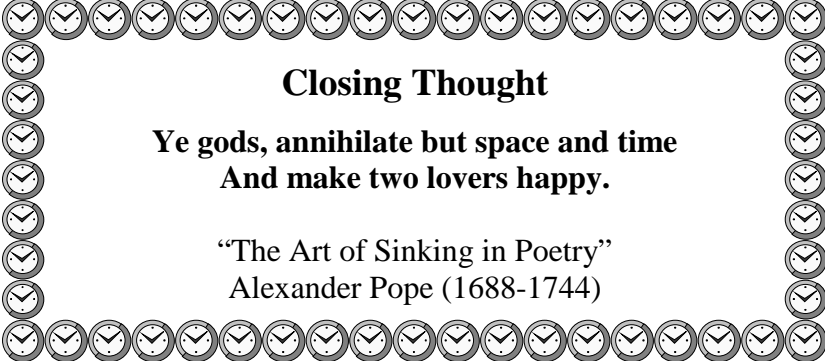
From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

Take Olympic Blvd. exit.
 Right on Olympic Blvd. Go 0.8 mile.
 At light, turn left onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

Friday Technical Meetings

Location varies. Program for May will be announced later.

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.



Closing Thought

Ye gods, annihilate but space and time
And make two lovers happy.

“The Art of Sinking in Poetry”
Alexander Pope (1688-1744)