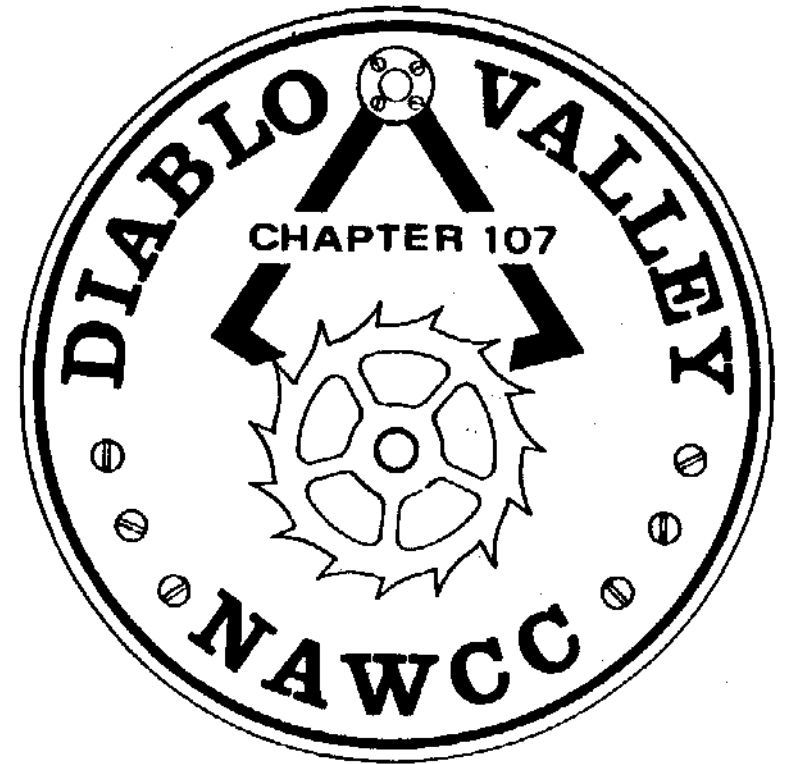


# BULLETIN



June 2004  
Volume 153

## DIABLO VALLEY

### Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

#### OFFICERS

|            |              |              |                           |
|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| President  | Jason Evans  | 925-376-0654 | vette66@aol.com           |
| Vice Pres. | Dale Gardner | 510-531-7565 |                           |
| Vice Pres. | Tom Armour   | 510-654-3363 | armourtom@aol.com         |
| Secretary  | John Stohr   | 925-376-6476 | jstohr@sbcglobal.net      |
| Treasurer  | Walt Hubrig  | 925-685-0260 | dottiewalt@ca.astound.net |
| Past Pres. | Bob Wahrer   | 925-462-4912 | jbwahrer@pacbell.net      |

#### DIRECTORS

|           |               |              |               |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2004      | Lois Naye     | 925-934-4557 | lnaye@aol.com |
| 2004      | Jack Coulter  | 925-284-1031 |               |
| 2004-2005 | Sandy Cuthill | 925-686-3144 |               |
| 2004-2005 | Roy Clark     | 925-376-6356 |               |
| 2004-2005 | Earl Watrous  | 510-569-4175 |               |

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

|              |                |              |                           |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Display      | ****open****   |              |                           |
| Editor       | Price Russ     | 925-937-9231 | gpruss@pacbell.net        |
| Library      | Sandy Cuthill  | 925-686-3144 |                           |
| Mart         | ****open****   |              |                           |
| Membership   | Roy Holman     | 510-530-5428 | rholmanjr@juno.com        |
| Nominating   | John Stohr     | 925-376-6476 | jstohr@sbcglobal.net      |
| Photo        | Sophia Gardner | 510-531-7565 |                           |
| Program      | Dale Gardner   | 510-531-7565 |                           |
| Program      | Tom Armour     | 510-654-3363 | armourtom@aol.com         |
| Raffle       | Jack Coulter   | 925-284-1031 |                           |
| Refreshment  | Lois Naye      | 925-934-4557 | lnaye@aol.com             |
| Tool Library | Walt Hubrig    | 925-685-0260 | dottiewalt@ca.astound.net |

## Meeting Notice

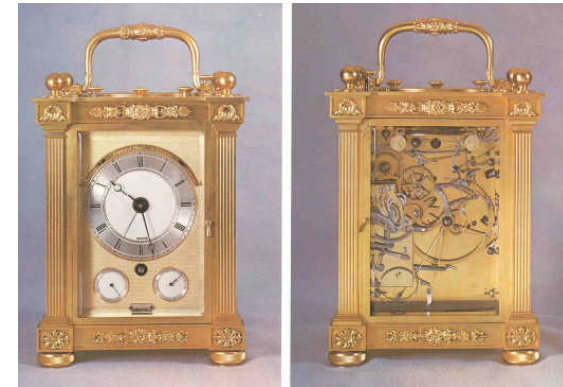
JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

## CARRIAGE CLOCKS by JIM HEROLD



Breguet Carriage Clock  
(Daniels, *The Art of Breguet*)

**Bring a carriage clock to display.  
(It does not have to be this fancy.)**

## *President's Message*

Spring has sprung (pun intended), and it is now time to look toward our next meeting on Sunday June 13. The weather is warming up making it more enjoyable to drive to the meeting.

At the Friday meeting in John Stohr's home, we were treated to Lorraine's award winning dessert bars, and we watched a taped presentation. John Minty's presentation "Conserve or Restore" was very interesting. Doug was a National Board member from Australia. He stated there were nomenclature differences between what materials are called in Australia and what they are known as in the US. Several conversations continued after the tape regarding thoughts on whether to conserve or restore. Roy also brought an early strap clock works from an Ives triple-deck clock for us to look at.

Last meeting's presentation by Dorian Clair on several of his favorite clocks, including a tower and a paper clock, was well received.

At 7 feet, an interesting all wood-gear oak clock stands in Scott Hamton and Wendy Tamis' Clocks etc. shop in Lafayette. It is crank wound, and the pendulum is driven by two weights concealed in the two side legs. The two weight cables wind opposite on the barrel when the crank is turned. The wooden gears are 9 ply, which resists warping, and have brass arbors and sealed ball bearings. The escape wheel is enormous and adds quiet motion to the beauty of this well crafted piece. It is made by La Crosse in La Crosse, Minnesota. Scott says he was one of the early members of #107 and says hi. The store is open on Sunday, so he has difficulty making our meetings.

*Jason Evans*



## *Editor's Section*

It is time to start planning for the annual Picnic and White Elephant Auction. This year will be special because of the clocks that the Sanderson's have donated to the auction (see p. 12). Of course each of you will want to dig out some special items to contribute for the benefit of the Chapter and the amusement of the bidders. At the June meeting, we will need to discuss where the picnic will be held and the general plans for it. If you have any special desires, the meeting is the place to make them known.

On a trip "back east", I was able to examine a Breguet chronometer that had recently come to light after decades in an attic. What a find! When you actually get to handle something like this, you begin to realize just how special Breguet was. This particular chronometer had two interesting features that help prevent damage due to accidental mishandling. Unlike lever watches, the balance of a chronometer can not be removed without first removing power from the train. In this chronometer, loosening the balance cock screws automatically locks the train. If power runs down in a chronometer, the escapement will unlock and likely damage the mechanism. This one was equipped with a mechanism to lock the balance if the power ran down. When the fusee ran down to a certain point, it pushed one end of a lever configured in such a way that a pin on the other end of the lever would catch in a slot inside the balance rim, and lock the balance. Roughly speaking, very roughly, it was similar to the locking of a strike train.

The pocket watch case illustration on page 12 is from de Carle's *Watch and Clock Encyclopedia*.

In last issue's discussion of the founding of the Royal Observatory, I wrote that the method of lunar distances was considered impractical because of "poor date". I should have written "poor data".

*Price Russ*

### TIME IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY (3)

In 1684 the Emperor Kangxi (1661 to 1722) issued a decree for China to open trade with the west. (Remember the Emperor Kangxi, mentioned in the April bulletin, who liked to take clocks apart?) Soon after this decree, British, Italian, Portuguese and French traders began to “flock” to China with European goods for exchange. Fine clocks were the most appropriate gifts (or bribes) for the Emperor and other high government officials. The number of clocks in the Emperor’s palace and Imperial Court continued to increase and has been reported to exceed 1000. During this time some clocks continued to be built in China. These clocks were manufactured in workshops in the Forbidden City, Guangzhou and Suzhou.

The next Emperor, Qianlong, (1736 to 1795) discovered that the European clocks were much superior to those being built in China. Emperor Qianlong issued an order to the Chinese customs that “Clocks bought for the Imperial Court must be made in the West.” The result was that the Chinese clock industry improved quickly by adapting western mechanical designs & manufacturing techniques. These were combined with Chinese case workmanship and ornamentations. Clocks cases based on traditional Chinese motifs, architecture and legends became more common. Colored enamel, copper work, inlaid gems and gold were skillfully applied. These clocks became more automated with moving figures, flowers, animals and waterfalls. After a short time, the Guanuzhou manufactured clocks



were again accepted in the Imperial Court, and they became the first choice for gifts to the Emperor. The Pagoda Clock shown is an example of this.

The base of the Pagoda clock is 18.5 x 18.5 inches. The clock sits normally about 20 in. high. At the hour, the clock slowly extends into a seven story pagoda, which is 43.7 in. high. When extended, a sculpture of Buddha becomes visible in the first story of the pagoda and other figures and paintings are revealed on each of the other stories. There are also figures at each corner of the base. These are carved ivory boys standing on a lotus leaf in Buddha worship. These figures slowly bend in prayer as the pagoda extends. After several seconds, starting with the uppermost, each story of the pagoda begins to descend into the one below it until they are all telescoped together again to await the next hour.

*Bob Wahner*

### BOOKSELLER BACK IN BUSINESS

John Pierson and ClockWorks Press are back in the business of selling horological books. Their web site is not fully functional yet, but they can be reached at (916) 371-8264 or [info@clockworkspress.com](mailto:info@clockworkspress.com).

### WATCHBANDS

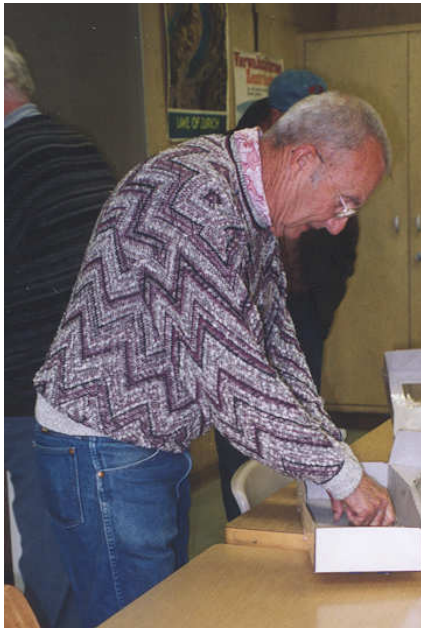
Selecting the proper width band can play a major role in keeping your watch on your wrist rather than on the floor. This is particularly true with leather bands that fit snugly around the spring bars. If the band is narrower than the distance between the lugs, any jostling of the watch or band can cause the spring bar to retract enough to slip out of the hole in the lug. I figured this out after having my Accutron fall off my wrist three times. Fortunately I did not lose the watch and no damage occurred.

*Price Russ*



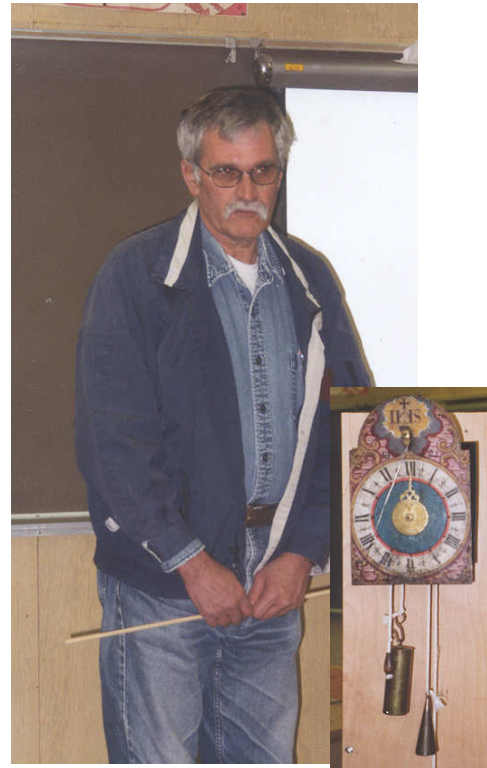
Doug and Laura Schneider (guests)

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Roy Holman battling a donut.

# April 2004 Meeting



Dorian Clair telling it the way it is.

Fred Cuthill and Jerry Kroeger



The Wahrers enjoying the moment.



Gary Busher and Sandy Cuthill

## Wait. Don't Tell Me!

### Answers to last issue's questions

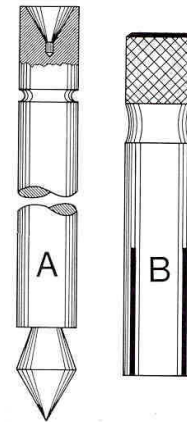
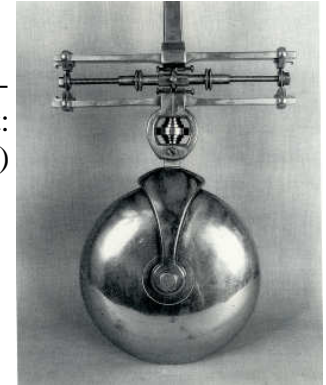
Easter as celebrated in Western churches will fall on the second Sunday of April in 2007, 2009, 2012, and then not until 2020. For those interested in long-term planning. Easter will also conflict with our meetings in 2031, 2034, 2036, and 2039. Most of us won't need to worry about problems in the 2030s. Easter must fall between March 22 and April 25, inclusively.

The bigwig pictured in the last issue was Thomas Tompion (1639-1713). Today he is remembered mostly for his clocks, but he actually made more watches including some of the first with balance springs. The supremacy of England in 18<sup>th</sup> century horology is credited to Tompion. George Graham another horological giant was his student and later his partner. Graham succeeded Tompion in the business. They are buried together in Westminster Abbey. (I can not remember where I found the portrait of Tompion, if you know where it is published, please tell me - *ed.*)

The "lady" is Louise de K roualle (1649 - 1734), a mistress of Charles II who installed her as the Duchess of Portsmouth. In 1674 Morin's long-ignored suggestion of determining longitude by lunar distance was reintroduced by Sieur de St. Pierre, a Frenchman, who came to England to promote his idea after failing to sell it in France. He asked the Duchess, his compatriot, to present his idea to the King. A commission including Wren, Hooke, and Flamsteed decided it was not practical because of a lack of data on the position of the moon and stars. Flamsteed then repeated Morin's suggestion - build an observatory to collect the needed data. This led to the construction of the Royal Observatory and the appointment of Flamsteed as the Astronomer Royal. (The portrait is in the Getty Collection in Malibu.)

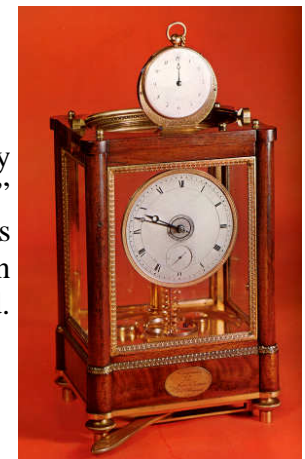
### New Questions

Can you figure out how the compensation works on this pendulum? (Hint: the horizontal bars are bimetallic.) Who was its inventor?



The part labeled "A" is a number 1 punch from a staking set. What is its function? What is the function of "B"?

Would this rather nice timepiece qualify as a carriage clock? What is the "deal" with the watch at the top? What is this arrangement called? By the way it is in the collection of the Queen of England. Don't expect it on the market soon.

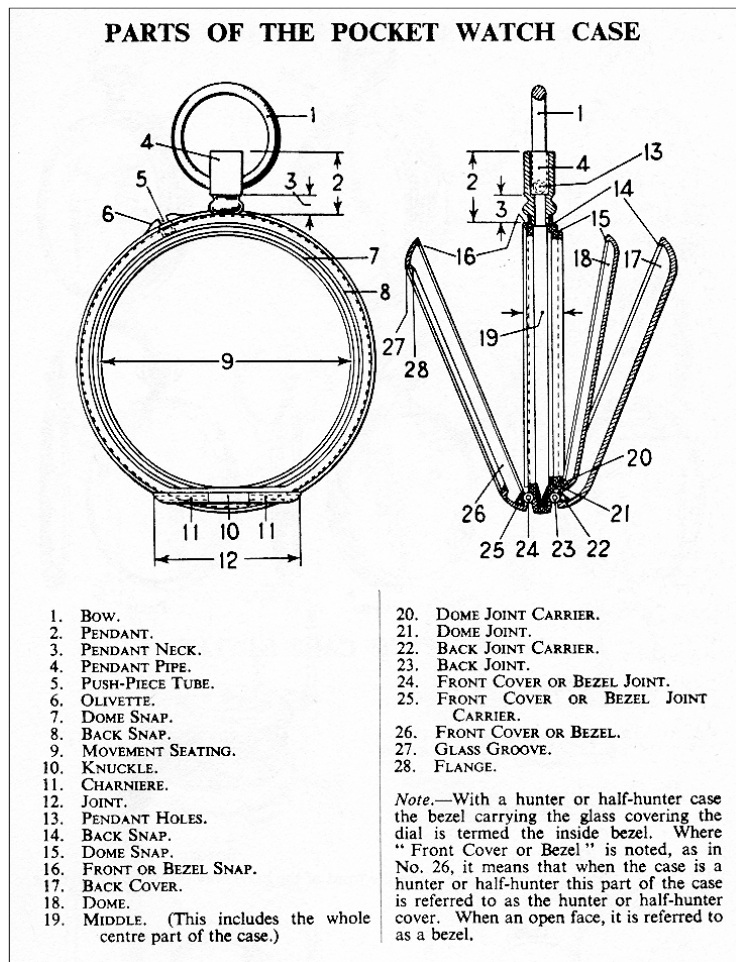


## A GENEROUS DONATION

At the last Chapter meeting, Sandy Cuthill announced that Dorothea and John Sanderson had donated 7 camelback clocks to the Chapter. These will be auctioned at the August meeting.

According to a recent email from Dorothea, they have relocated to a six-acre property in Yacolt, WA with a view of Mt. Saint Helens.

Thank you Dorothea and John!



## INTERESTING NEW GADGETS

Extech Instruments is marketing a handheld chronograph that not only has lots of timing functions but also measures temperature and humidity from which it calculates the heat index. The list price is \$39. To learn more about this device visit their web page (<http://www.extech.com/heatwatch>). According to the web site, these watches are available at Fry's Electronics.



For several months, Microsoft in conjunction with Fossil and Suunto has been marketing wrist watches that wirelessly download information from the world wide web. The Fossil models, such as the one shown here, sell in the \$175 - \$200 range.

(All I know about these products is what I have read - *ed.*)



## 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.

## 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:** requests for this section.

**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**

July - None  
 September - None  
 November 5, 2004  
 January 7, 2005  
 March 4, 2005  
 May 6, 2005

**SUNDAY & BOARD**

August 8, 2004  
 October 10, 2004  
 December 12, 2004  
 February 13, 2005  
 April 10, 2005  
 June 12, 2005

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  |
| <b>De Anza #94</b>                                  | Odd Fellows Lodge<br>20589 Homestead Rd<br>Cupertino, CA          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br>even months<br>(except April) |
| <b>Monterey Bay #70</b>                             | Live Oak Grange Hall<br>1900 17th Ave<br>Santa Cruz, CA           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br>odd months                    |
| <b>Sacramento #71</b>                               | Sacramento Garden Center<br>3330 McKinley Blvd.<br>Sacramento, CA | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>odd months                    |
| <b>San Francisco #5</b>                             | Boys and Girls Club<br>401 Marina Blvd.<br>San Leandro, CA        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br>odd months                    |

**DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS**

***Sunday Meetings***  
*(except August and December)*

**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.).

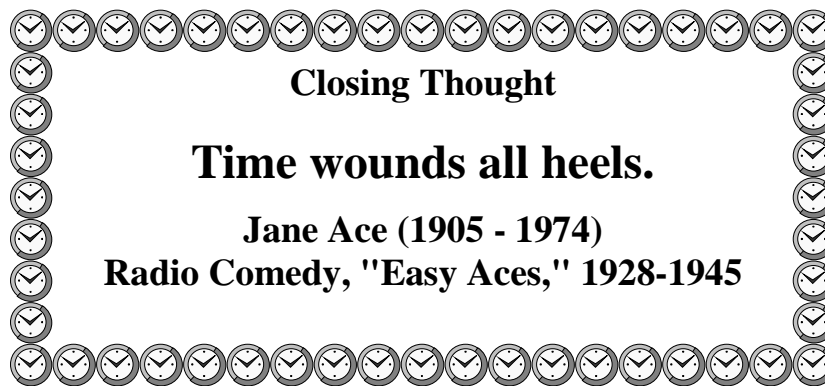
**From Benicia - Highway 680 going South**

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***

Details on the May meeting 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**

**Time wounds all heels.**

**Jane Ace (1905 - 1974)**

**Radio Comedy, "Easy Aces," 1928-1945**