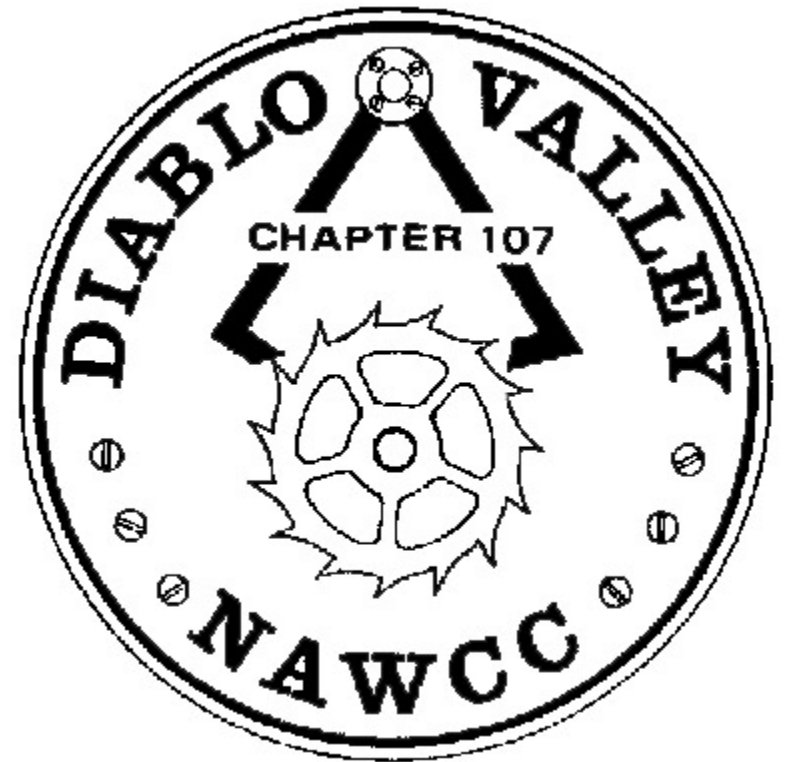


BULLETIN



February 2005
Volume 157

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

OFFICERS

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Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@ca.astound.net

Meeting Notice

February 13, 2005

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

THE NAWCC CLOCK SCHOOL: PERSPECTIVES OF A RECENT GRADUATE

by

Clarence Kopel

In November Clarence completed four months of study on clock making at the NAWCC school in Columbia. He will tell us about his experiences, discuss the prospects for a satellite school on the west coast, and perhaps share some of the secrets he learned. Clarence is currently employed at Classic Clock and Antiques in Livermore.

President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone and may the year of 2005 be good to you! I'm honored to serve as president again and am looking forward to working with the new Officers and the Board to maintain the excellence of Chapter 107 as it has been in the past. Special thanks to our Past President, Jason Evans, and the Officers who served with him.

Our annual December luncheon and clock auction at the Hungry Hunter Restaurant was a great success. As usual, the auction had lots of good things at bargain prices. Thanks to auctioneer Jay.

In starting out the new year, I would like to address a few concerns in the hope that some thought and discussion may provide resolutions.

First is our Friday evening meetings. Most recently, these have been at John Stohr's home with the program consisting of a horological video. (Thank you, John, for your hospitality and procuring the videos.) The questions are. Do we want to continue with this format? Is there someone else's home where we could meet occasionally so that John can get a rest? Some time ago, the chapter held Friday meetings at the homes of various Chapter members, and the program consisted of examining the host's collection. Is there an interest in reviving this format? Are there enough members who would like to participate in this? Other Friday meetings in the past consisted of a workshop at some other location. Is there interest in workshop type meetings? Finding an outside location for this may be impossible. The days of a free room at public facilities seem to be long gone. Any ideas?

Another concern is the Chapter library. A storage place for the library is required. I estimate one or two cabinets about 4 x 2 x 6 feet high would be required. Also, transportation of at least part of our library to the regular meetings is required. Anybody have any suggestions?

Continued on page 6

Editor's Section

Let me start by congratulating the new officers and thanking them for donating their time to our Chapter. I also want to thank the Board and membership for purchasing our new color laser printer. I expect it to save me time and to provide a more consistent, high-quality product. Hopefully it will also save us money in the long run. Fortunately because of an end of year sale, I was able to get a higher resolution model than originally planned. I originally bought it at Staples for \$450 (after rebate). The next week, after I read about a sale at a different store, I went back to Staples. They lowered their price to \$300 and refunded the difference. To make matters even better, I did not have to bother with the rebate. Because of the large price reduction, I also bought a 2 year service plan.

Walt Hubrig deserves special thanks for arranging the Holiday Lunch and Auction Meeting. It was a fun affair as usual. I was one of the many who came home with new-to-me treasures.

Starting with this issue, I am going to ask and answer the "Wait Don't Tell Me" questions in the same issue. I think this will increase the usefulness of the feature. This issue maintains the old layout, but the answers to the new questions are presented on a following page.

The image on the right is a close up of the back plate of a small New Haven clock. Instead of using a pin to stop the unwinding mainspring from pushing against other parts of the movement, the plate has been bent, area circled, to serve this function. Is this common? It certainly surprised (scarred) me when I saw it after I had taken the movement apart. It is always a good idea to look a movement over carefully before taking it apart.



Price Russ

President's Message continued from page 4

A volunteer for garage space and/or a van trip once every other month would be appreciated.

Finally, we are always seeking ideas for programs for our regular meetings. If you have any suggestions for a program, please, let me or any other Board member know about it. The Chapter Officers will be happy to work with you to expand your idea into an interesting program. This does not have to be a full hour long presentation. We have often had excellent programs which consisted of several short (10 to 15 minute) presentations by several members.

See you at the meetings and thank you again for your consideration.

Bob Wahrer

CLOCK IN DUOMO OF FLORENCE

The clock shown below is on the wall above the main door of the Duomo in Florence, Italy. The fresco dial was painted by Paolo Uccello in 1443. It includes images of "prophets" at each corner. (See the insert.) I have no information on who built the actual clock. Like the tower clock shown in the previous issue, it has one hand and a 24 hour dial. This one, however, is unusual in that it runs backwards from those with which we are familiar and because the hand points straight down between XXIII and I. (Note that when the hand points down it is on the line between the numbers. Most such clocks that I have seen start with XXIII on the right with the hand horizontal to represent the sunset position. Could this one have been meant to recon from midnight? If the observer was facing north, this would make some sense because the sun would rise to the right, but it is on the west wall.



Price Russ

2005 Proposed Budget

Income:

CD Interest	400
Memberships	645
Other	
Auction Sales	200
Christmas Lunch	500
Other	0

Total Income **\$1,745**

Expenses:

Discretionary	
Door Prizes	-100
Food & drink - Christmas	-1000
Food & drink - Meetings	-100
Food & drink - Picnic	-200
Library - Books	-0
Library - Tools	-0
Miscellaneous	-0
Photos	-0
Regional	-0

Mandatory

Bulletin - Printing	-325
Bulletin - Other*	-360
Bulletin - Postage	-150
Insurance	-270
PO Box	-100
Rentals - Acalanes	-0
Other	-0

Total Expenses **-\$2605**

Difference **-\$860**

*Purchase of laser printer



Jan and Bob Wahrer



Joan Holman



Carol Slatten and Celeste Graham

December 2004 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Len Boone



Jean McKeen, Dottie Hubrig, Lois Naye, and Walt Hubrig



Price Russ and Jason Evans



Wayne & Peggy English and Dale Gardner



Miles and Inge Maynard

Wait. Don't Tell Me!

Answers to last issue's questions

The clock model was based on Galileo Galilei's design. While no finished clock was built to this design during his life it is arguably the oldest design for a pendulum clock. This honor is usually given to Christian Huygens who developed the clock design shown in the sketch. Galileo's design, which dates from around 1640, was successfully applied in the 1650's. Huygens design and implementation dates from 1656. Both men made important contributions to our understanding of the pendulum. Huygens work was certainly better documented and more advanced. For instance he worked out a solution to the problem of changes in period resulting from changes in amplitude of the pendulum's swing. At least one well known tower clock made to Galileo's design is still in use. It is the one in the Tower of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. (Michelangelo's David stands in front of the tower. (Nowadays, David is a copy, but that is a detail.) The Palazzo Vecchio clock was built by George Lederle in 1667. See Bedini's *The Pulse of Time* for more details on Galileo's place in horological history.

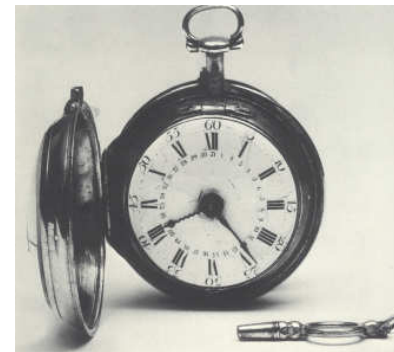
The Venetian tower clock with a single hand and a 24 hour dial is on the Church of San Giacomo di Rialto near the famous Rialto Bridge. This is thought to be the site of the oldest church in Venice. The clock was designed for days beginning at sunset. Note that the hand is horizontal at the 24th hour. At least at the equinox, the sun would set at the beginning of the day and rise at the 12th hour. In the photo the clock indicates that it is 14:00. If it is set to the old way of telling time, this would be 8:00 AM for us. I took the picture in the early afternoon, so it must be set to the modern convention. This clock dates from 1410 and has been a notably poor time-keeper ever since. It would be interesting to know more about the construction of the clock. Unfortunately guidebooks rarely discuss what is behind the pretty face.

New Questions

Who is this famous American horologist? What did he invent?



Who made this watch and what is its significance?



This question is for the world travelers in the Chapter. In what city is the clock tower in the middle of the picture located?



OK, Now Tell Me.

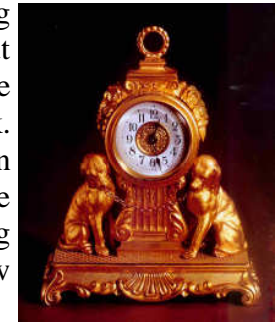
The man in the portrait is Simon Willard (1753 - 1848). He is probably best known as the inventor of the “banjo” clock. Simon was only one of four clock-making brothers. Among his early developments was a clockwork roasting jack. In 1802 he obtained a patent for what we call the banjo clock. The patent claimed nine improvements. Only the ninth concerned the shape of the case. Another interesting development of his was an alarm clock patented in 1819 that stuck the top of the case to make a knocking noise rather than striking a bell. His thought was that this would more readily waken the sleeper. Because of their shape, these are usually referred to as light-house clocks. (I was unable to find the patent numbers. *ed.*) Two of his later projects were clocks for the US Senate Chamber and Statuary Hall in the capitol. In the portrait, Willard seems to be pointing to a clock with a horizontal dial and some tool of instrument, possibly a theodolite.

The watch is a verge-escapement key-wound pocket watch with calendar made by Thomas Harland (1735 - 1807) of Norwich, CT in about 1800. Harland, an English trained clock-maker, is believed to have been the first watchmaker in America. As did others of the period, he sold imported watches with his name added, but it is thought, and his obituary stated, that he also made watches. The next major figure in American watch making was Luther Goddard, a cousin of Simon Willard. Goddard was licensed to sell Willard’s “Patent Alarm Time Pieces”. The information on Willard and Harland is from Bailey’s *Two Hundred Years of American Clocks and Watches*.

The clock tower is on Place de l’Etoile in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. This site has been inhabited for over 5,000 years. Only 2,000 years ago a Roman basilica stood here. As can be seen from the picture, the city has been extensively rebuilt since the civil war of the 1980’s.

TIME IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY (7)

This is one of the “newer” clocks in the Forbidden City, Beijing, China. It looks like a European clock but was made in Japan early in the 20th century (before 1911). The clock is much smaller than it looks on the picture, 7 x 5 1/8 x 2 1/8 in. The dial diameter is less than 2 in. Note that there are no winding holes in the dial. The winding and setting are on the rear. No mention is made about striking functions, so I assume it is a time only. Little else is known about this clock. It appears to be the only clock from Japan in this collection. China and Japan were not known to be on friendly terms during this time. It would be interesting to know how it was received.



I have a question about Chinese clocks that someone may be able to help me with. A number of clocks in the Forbidden City collection are attributed to “Hangry”. A reference in my book indicates that the Hangry Co. was established in 1864 “to deal in Swiss watches and German clocks” and by 1930 had 30 shops and factories in China. Has anyone heard of Hangry? Is it possible that Hangry is a misspelling of a Chinese name? I would like to know more.

Bob Wahner

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 ☆ **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** ☆
 ☆ Yet again Chapter dues remain unchanged at \$15.00. ☆
 ☆ This includes your spouse. You may pay at the next ☆
 ☆ meeting or mail a check to Roy Holman at 4300 Everett ☆
 ☆ Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. Please make checks payable ☆
 ☆ to Diablo Valley Chapter 107. Badges can be picked up ☆
 ☆ at any meeting after your payment is received. ☆
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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

March 4, 2005
 May 6, 2005
 July 2005 - None
 September 2005 - None
 November 4, 2005
 January 6, 2006

SUNDAY & BOARD

April 10, 2005
 June 12, 2005
 August 14, 2005
 October 9, 2005
 December 11, 2005
 February 12, 2006

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	Boys and Girls Club 401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 nd Sunday odd months (1 st Sunday in May)

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

Location varies. March program 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.

