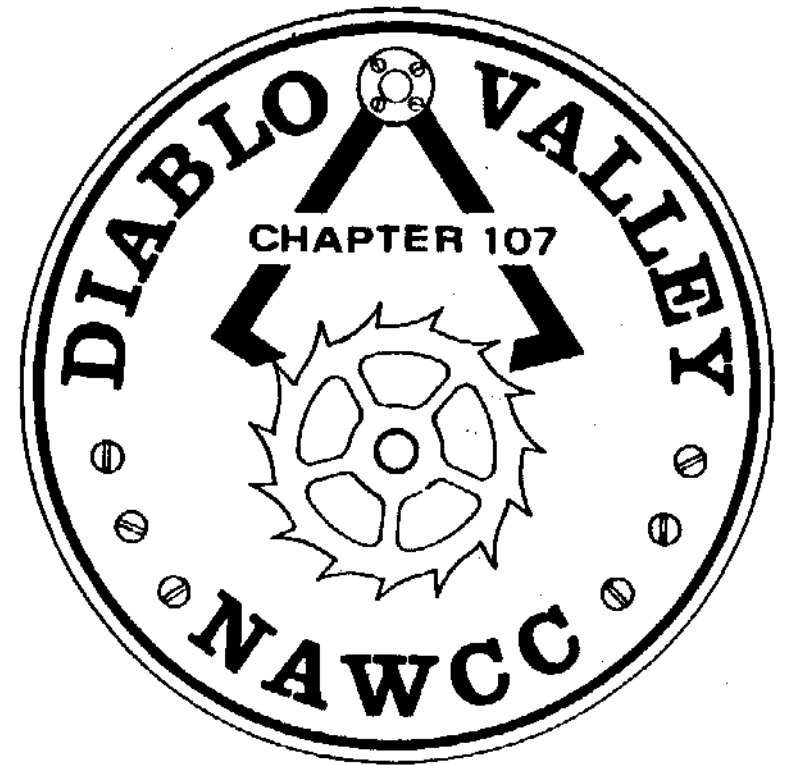


# BULLETIN



October 2007  
Volume 173

# DIABLO VALLEY

## Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

#### OFFICERS

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Vice Pres.	Tom Kochmann	925-228-8436	
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Past Pres.	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	

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# Meeting Notice

October 14

Mart 11:30 Meeting 12:30

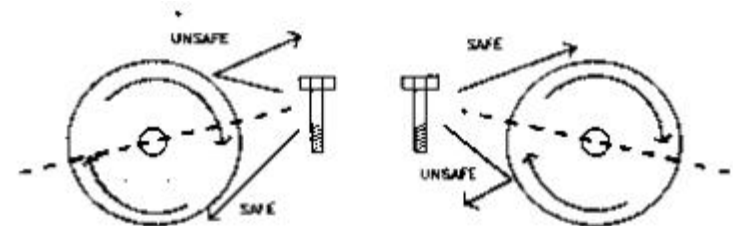
Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

Polishing Brass

by

Ron Bechler



## President's Message

The barbeque is over. We ate all we could and had a great time. I would like to thank the Taylor family for all the work that was done and for the viewing of all their clocks. It was great. The auction seemed to go very well and things moved.

The year is winding down and I would like to ask all of you for your nomination of someone to fill the positions that are open. We need the support of all to make this chapter strong. Voting will be at the December meeting. We also need to increase membership. I think we should set a goal of each member bringing in one new member in the next year. If we could do that, it would be great.

I would like to thank all of you for the support I have gotten and hope that I can give the support back.

### Clarence



Painting of Big Ben by William T. Kimber, head molder of Whitechapel Bell Foundry. George Mears, owner of the foundry, and his family are on the left.

## Editor's Page

I want to join Clarence in thanking the Taylors for hosting our annual picnic. I also thank Jay, Bob Wahrer, and Dale and Sophia Gardner for contributing to this issue.

So far I have received three responses to the questionnaire about the *Bulletin*. I would like more feedback. If you have not responded, please, bring the survey to the October meeting. No one has called for drastic change. Two responses suggest an expanded *Bulletin* and more technical content, and two (not the same two) have suggested more input from the membership. One suggested omitting the meeting pictures. We could expand to regularly using five sheets instead of four without increasing postage costs. We could also omit or reduce the number of photos if that is the desire of the group. Any expansion of content, will require commitments from the membership to contribute material to fill the space. Before agreeing to an expansion, I would want several people to agree to contribute to every issue. For example, one person might agree to contribute a repair tip for every issue. Another would be in charge of an article on horological history, and so on. This would lead to a stronger and more interesting *Bulletin*. Let's discuss this at the upcoming meeting.

I have been reading two books by Philip Woodward – *My Own Right Time* and *Woodward on Time*. (Both are available from the NAWCC library.) In horological circles, Woodward is renowned for building a remarkably accurate mechanical clock and for his writings on the theory of pendulums, escapements, and noise. He is even more famous for his work on information theory, which began with his contributions to the development of radar during World War II. I had read that his book *Probability and Information Theory, with Applications to Radar*, 1953, was a classic. I was, however, surprised to see it referenced in a recent article I was skimming on echolocation in dolphins and bats. Those interested in the theory of mechanical timekeeping will enjoy Woodward's books. He writes in a style that will allow the less technical reader to grasp the major points while challenging the most technically inclined.

### Price

## FAVORITE CLOCK

As I walk around the house, looking at the clocks, I occasionally get a chance to sit, listen and enjoy the ticking and chiming that brings each of these marvelous antiques to life. I find myself drawn to the “Elliott” clock.

In my early days of collecting the problem was not finding clocks but rather which ones were the right ones, and could we afford them. In the summer of 1988, we were on vacation in Portland Oregon visiting family. On a side trip, we headed out to Aurora, OR and a few antique stores. It was on this trip that my brother-in-law introduced me to George Schmidt of Schmidt’s Antiques in Aurora.

Upon entering Schmidt’s my brother-in-law pointed out a wonderful grandfather clock. Everyone simply referred to the massive grandfather clock as the “Elliott” because the movement was made by the Elliott Clock Company London, England. (The clock case was by Harris and Harrington, New York, NY, in business from 1880 to 1919.)

It was love at first site. We slowly walked up to the clock looking at all the marvelous details and thinking how wonderful it would look back in our house. The deep rich wood, delicate carvings, and the massive size would be perfect for a Victorian house with 14 foot ceilings. The face of the clock with its moon dial was aged so perfectly. It was as if you could see all the hours the clock had ever shown. It was at some time during the discussion about the clock that George gently unlocked the door and pulled the repeater string and the clock began it musical song on a set of perfectly tuned bells until finally the hours struck in such deep rich tone, so deep that you could feel the sound.



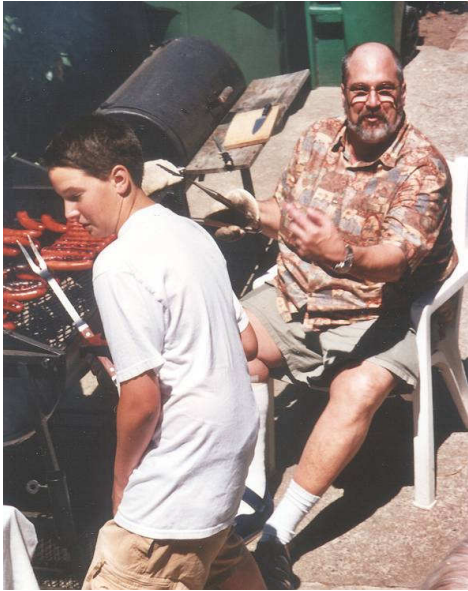
Kathy and I looked at each other and knew we had to have this clock. We talked more and in greater detail about this wonderful clock. According to George the clock was found in the basement of a very large house in Seattle, WA and had actually been painted several times in different colors. Luckily the original finish was never removed, so the paint had not entered the wood grain. With each chime we knew this would be a wonderful clock to have our kids grow up with and to eventually leave for them to have. Before we knew it, we had made a deal to buy the clock.

That night we talked and talked about our decision. We had just had our first child and another monthly payment was not what we wanted at that time. In the morning, I called George and explained our concern that we could not take on a monthly bill with a new baby. To my surprise, he was very appreciative of our position and honesty, and we agreed to cancel the deal. I later learned that the clock had been purchased. I felt sad but realized we had made the right decision at the time.

Over the years, we made several trips to Oregon and each time visited with George. As the years passed the worries of young parenthood passed and we started collecting again. In 1996 while talking with George he asked “Remember that old Elliott clock?” I replied “Sure I do. How could I ever forget that one?” George then told us the buyer had come down with an illness and wanted to start selling part of his collection. Then George said the “Elliott” was available, and that if I wanted it right then and there, I could have it for the 1988 price. So the “Elliot” came home with us along with our four kids and grandpa - Bert Hayenga. That is yet another story of three days of clocks, driving, and very little sleep, but we were all much younger then.

It is very rare in life you ever get a second chance. It is also rare to do business with someone as good as George Schmidt. The clock would have appreciated in value over this time, but he knew what it meant to us even after this much time. It was then and still today remains a favorite clock.

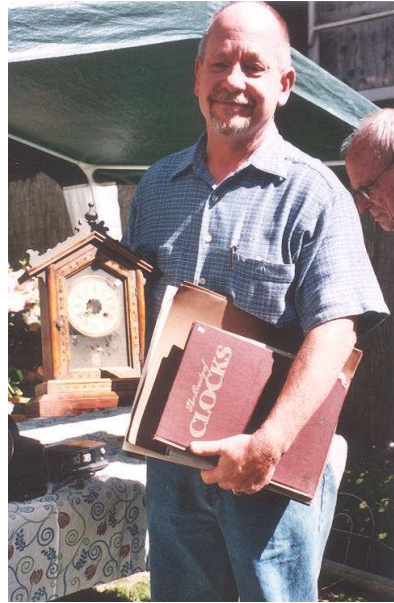
*Jay Taylor*



Max and Jay Taylor

# August 2007 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Nile Godfrey



Ron Bechler



Kathy Taylor



Devon Hoffman (new member)



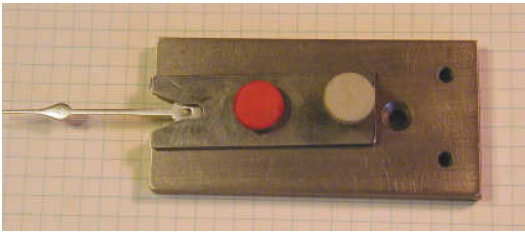
Carolyn Alexander and Helen Clark



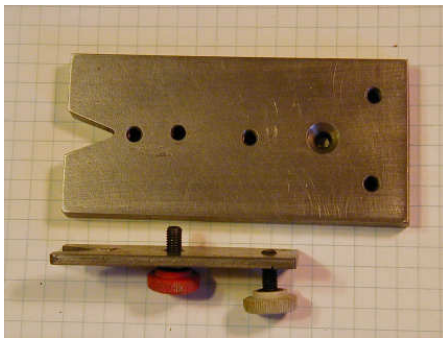
Phil and Lucy Hart

## A USEFUL TOOL

I have found that this tool can be very useful for holding small flat parts for drilling, sawing or filing. The first picture shows a clock hand clamped in the holding fixture. This permits the hole to be filed to the proper shape without bending or otherwise damaging the hand. This fixture will hold a washer securely and safely while drilling the hole to a larger size. The 'V' slot is useful when sawing out an irregularly shaped part.



As many of my improvised tools, this one is also made from material "at hand". The second photo shows the two basic parts. The base was made from a piece of mild steel 2 x 4 x 3/8 inches thick. The clamp bar is 1 x 2.8 x 1/8 inches thick. All of the cutting and shaping was done with a hack saw and files. The screws are 10-32. It should be noted that the center hole in the clamp bar is a clearance hole for the red screw which is screwed into the base, while the end hole in the clamp bar is tapped for the white screw which presses on the base. There are several other holes which have been added to the base from time to time for other clamp bars and also for securing the fixture in a drill press.



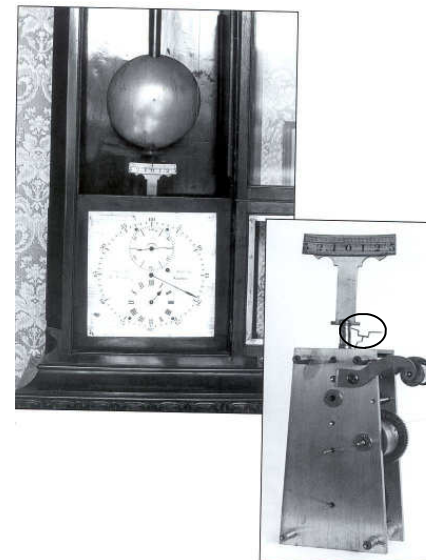
*Bob Wahner*

## Wait. Don't Tell Me!

We frequently hear of well made objects described as masterpieces? What was the original meaning of masterpiece?

Why were the chime and strike of this clock silenced in August?

What is the name of the largest bell in England?  
Where is it?



This regulator by the English clockmaker William George Schoof (1830 - 1901), who was noted for controversial ideas, has several unusual features in addition to being "upside-down". How is this pendulum clock like a typical pocket watch? (Clue: Note the circled device in the picture of the movement.)

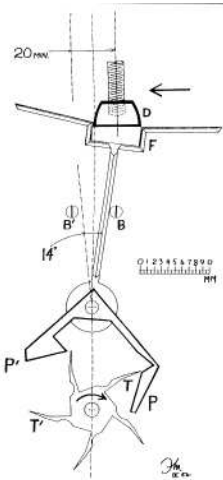
## OK, Now Tell Me.

A masterpiece was a handcrafted item produced by a journeyman desiring to become a master craftsman in the European guild system. As implied by the name, a journeyman was one who had completed an apprenticeship and then moved from place to place to gain experience. The dial of this masterpiece clock was shown in the August issue along with a brief description. If you have a masterpiece in your collection, please, tell us about it at a Chapter meeting.

Big Ben and the chime bells on the Westminster clock were silenced in August to replace bearings on the clock. This is only the fourth time the clock has been stopped for overhauls. The clock's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated in 2009.

The largest bell in England is *Great Paul* in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. As bells go, neither *Big Ben* or *Great Paul* are near the top of the size ranking.

As shown below, Schoof's regulator was driven in the same way as a lever watch. In this case, the impulse "pin" is mounted on end of the pendulum rod. His idea was to achieve a high degree of detachment. (In most pendulum clocks the pendulum is detached only during the "drop".) If the impulse was always constant, then the clock would have a constant rate. Because every pendulum is subject to "circular error"; ie, the rate changes with the arc of swing, any variation in impulse will effect the rate. Note the five tooth escapement wheel. (He originally developed the five tooth escapement for chronometers.) There are no detailed records on the clock's performance, but it is said to have been good to a few seconds per month.



## HELPFUL HINTS

If you need an unusual screw, nail, or other fastener that you can not find at the local hardware store and you don't want to buy a large number of them through a supply house, look under "fasteners" in the yellow pages or search the web using "fasteners" and the name of your city.

At our April meeting, Brain Andresen recommended using xylene to clean movements. Xylene is often sold in paint departments as Xylol. Your editor recently found that not all hardware stores carry it. One salesman told him that there were restrictions on its sale. This does not seem to be the case because it is readily available at other stores even within the same chain. As with any chemical, it should be handled with appropriate precautions and disposed of properly.

## CHAPTER LIBRARIES

**BOOK:** The Chapter book library is located at **Classical Clocks and Antiques**, 1086 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Contact **Nile Godfrey** (925-449-2127) for more information.

**VIDEO:** Chapters 107 and 5 share a video library. Contact **Price Russ** (925-937-9231) for information.

**TOOL:** 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.

There is no cost to borrow items from these collections.

## 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.)

Bill Koppel (925-934-9391) has *NAWCC Bulletins* that he would like to give to a new member. This is a great resource. Price Russ is looking for older *NAWCC Bulletins* (143-196).

**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**

November 2, 2007  
 January 4, 2008  
 March 7, 2008  
 May 2, 2008  
 July 2008 - None  
 September 2008 - None

**SUNDAY & BOARD**

December 9, 2007  
 February 10, 2008  
 April 13, 2008  
 June 8, 2008  
 August 10, 2008  
 October 12, 2008

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

**Only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our Mart. Be prepared to show your current membership card.**



Balance spring bluing tool

**Closing Thought**

I can not tell you the hour precisely. It is easier to get agreement among philosophers than among clocks.

Seneca (ca. 4 BC - 65 AD)