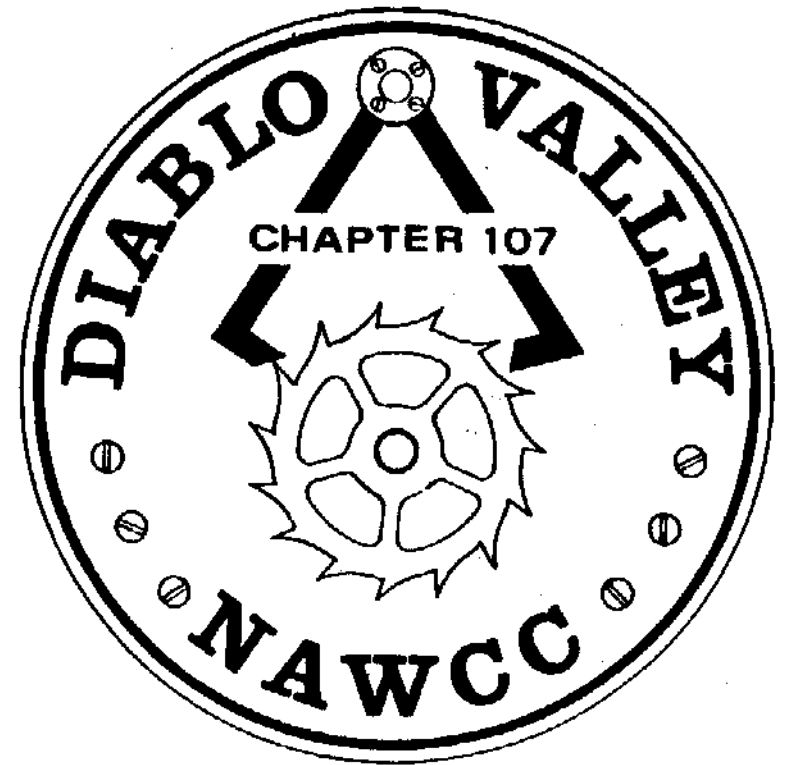


# BULLETIN



**February 2008**  
**Volume 175**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue**

# DIABLO VALLEY

## Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

#### OFFICERS

President	Dean Thomas	925-455-0929	dno337@comcast.net
Vice Pres.	Jay Taylor	510-522-2409	nutnut@alamedanet.net
Vice Pres.	Earl Watrous	510-569-4175	efwatrous@yahoo.com
Secretary	John Stohr	925-376-6476	jstohr@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Past Pres.	Clarence Kobel	925-447-3383	

#### DIRECTORS

2008	Tom Armour	510-654-3363	
2008	Bob Wahrer	925-462-4912	jbwahrer@pacbell.net
2008-2009	Bert Bradley	510-527-3454	
2008-2009	Chip Kumparak	408-499-4538	chips@garlic.com
2008-2009	Bob Thomas	209-823-3863	btclock@comcast.net

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	****open****		
Editor	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Library	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	jng3@aol.com
Mart	****open****		
Membership	Roy Holman	510-530-5428	royholman@gmail.com
Nominating	John Stohr	925-376-6476	jstohr@sbcglobal.net
Photo	Sophia Gardner	510-531-7565	
Program	Dean Thomas	925-455-0929	dno337@comcast.net
Program	Tom Kochmann	925-228-8436	
Raffle	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	
Refreshment	Lois Naye	925-934-4557	lnaye@aol.com
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net

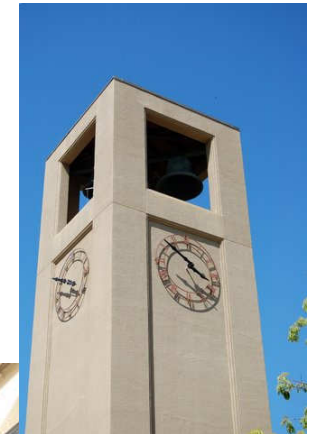
# Meeting Notice

February 10

Mart 11:30 Meeting 12:30

Room B-8  
Acalanes Adult Center

The Stanford Tower Clock  
by  
Dorian Clair



## *President's Message*

First, I'd like to thank everyone who voted in this election, and those of you that thought about it, but didn't. I would also like to welcome the returning officers and those who are newly elected.

At the picnic, this past summer, Price asked for new ideas or suggestions in changing some old ones. Everyone seemed to be satisfied with the way things have been. So, unless there are new thoughts during the year, we will continue down the same path.

We have a great deal of talent in this chapter and should put it to good use. One thing I would like to see is more articles on helpful hints, tools, and favorite clocks and watches.

I live in Livermore, home of the chapter's library. If you are interested or need a book, but are unable to get to Classical Clocks, (where the library is housed), I'm sure one of us would be able to bring it to the chapter meeting, with a little notice.

Since I'm on the subject of books, I just read a chapter in a book by Daniel Boorstin, on (what else) time. I was reminded of the old adage, "Whatever is being done now has been done before." It also made mention of the offer made in 1714, of 20,000 British pounds for anyone discovering a timepiece, which didn't have a pendulum, that could be used aboard ship to solve the problem of longitude. The result was the marine clock.

Presently, there is an offer of \$20,000,000, by the computer giant, Google, to build a robot that could be permanently stationed on the moon. Although John Harrison (the winner) never received the full amount offered for his discovery of the ship's clock, he may have come back for 20 million.

In closing, I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy 2008.

*Dean*

## *Editor's Page*

As I sat down to put this issue together, I realized it is our 30th Anniversary Issue. I think we can all be proud of our chapter. We may not be the biggest, but we may be the best.

There are several minor changes in this issue. The scope of the "Favorite" column has been expanded to include a favorite maker. Thanks to Roy Clark for the article on Dueber. To accommodate Roy's interesting review, I left out "Wait Don't Tell Me". Thanks also to Bob Wahrer for his safety tip. I am pleased to report that the meeting pictures are once again from Sophie Gardner. Sophie took many wonderful pictures at the holiday lunch. I used only the ones with buyers and their treasures. The others will be available at the meeting. Feel free to take ones with you in them. Please join me in thanking the Gardeners who contribute these pictures at no charge.

This brings me to the budget. Please pay close attention to the information on page 7.

With the support of Chapter 5, I have converted the video library from VHS tapes to DVDs. The discs are easier to carry, more compatible with most people's equipment, and have a longer life expectancy. Because of copyright issues, I do not want to circulate more copies than we have purchased. I will keep the tapes as backups, but I will not bring them to the meetings. If you really want to borrow a tape, it can be arranged.

Roy Clark's article on Dueber mentions the competition from Boss Case Co. On page 12, I have included a trade card used to advertise Boss. This is one of a series of 64 cards that can be viewed on "[www.tradecards.com/articles/boss/index.html](http://www.tradecards.com/articles/boss/index.html)". The Boss Company would be an interesting subject for a future article. Want to volunteer?

In my junk box, I found an Elgin movement that can be converted from open face to hunter style by moving two pieces. I will write more about it later.

*Price*





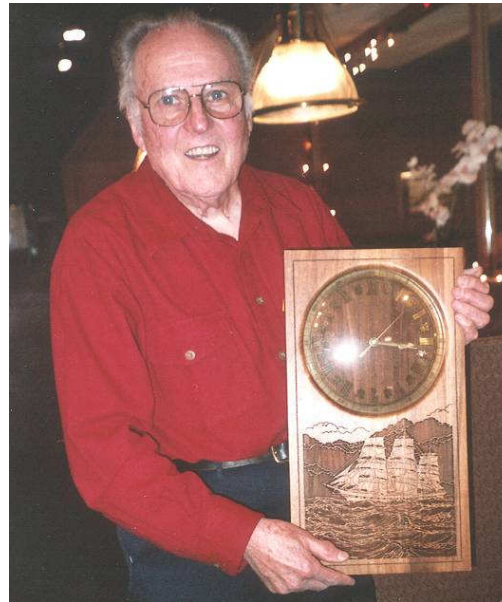


Nile Godfrey

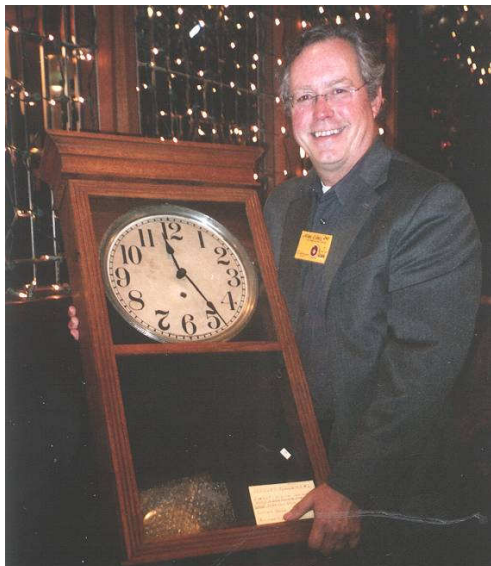
Bob Wahrer

# December 2007 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



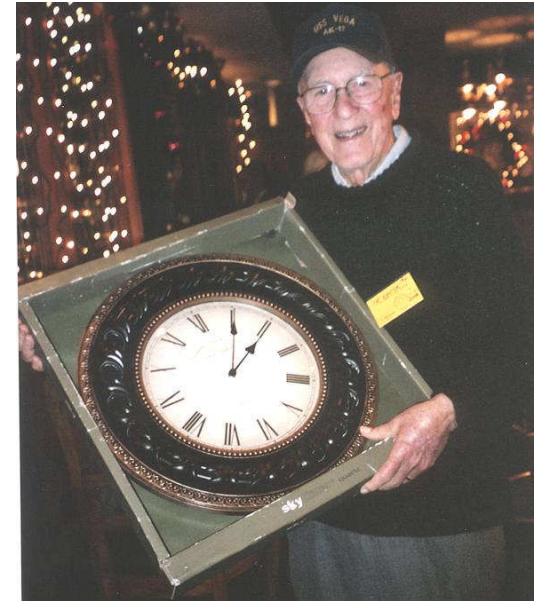
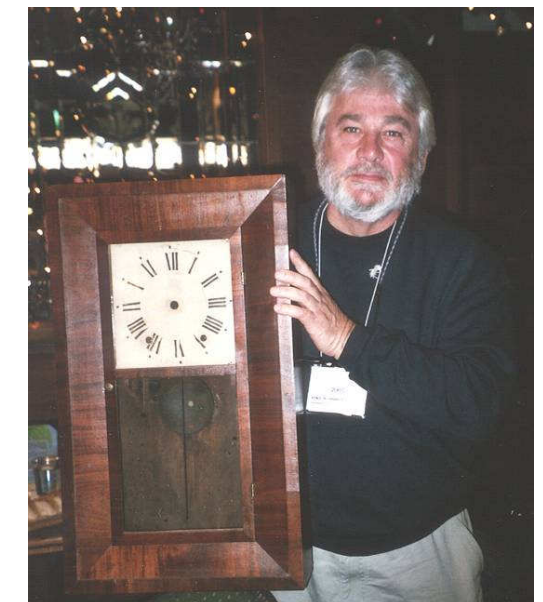
Jason Evans



Jay and Kathy Taylor



Mike Waddell



Joe Kanter

## MY FAVORITE

*From Springfield to Moscow: The Complete Dueber-Hampden Story* by James W. Gibbs. (Available from the NAWCC Library)

John Dueber was clearly one of the original American industrialists. He was born in Germany and came to the U. S. as a child. After serving as an apprentice and employee of a watchmaker in Cincinnati, he started his own business making quality watch cases in about 1863. Around 1874 the business moved to a large facility with 60 employees in Newport KY.

The 1880 census shows him with a wife, Mary, and three children all born in Ohio. About this time, the gold and silver case businesses were split into separate buildings and the workforce had grown to 600, but he was still looking to expand. In spite of his success, he was having trouble on two fronts. 1) The city resisted his efforts to buy more land, so he decided to move to Springfield MA. 2) The trust involving many case manufacturers was pushing him to join. Because of this, he was having problems selling cases to watchmakers. This led him to buy his own movement making company. The result was the Hampden Watch Company of Springfield, which employed some 480 people.

As he left the old factory, the floors were pulled up to salvage the precious metals that had fallen into the cracks. There is no indication of the value of the gold and silver recovered. I have seen a number of pictures of the buildings used by his operations. It is hard to believe that enough cases were being made and sold to support the enormous Dueber factories considering that he was only one of several casemakers.

Prior to Dueber taking over, the Hampden company had its own interesting history. It was one of several, mostly unsuccessful, companies founded by Don Mozart whose family came from Italy when he was a small child. The Hampden Watch Co. was incorporated in June of 1877 in Hampden County, MA. (Springfield is also in Hampden County.) This company had a very good reputation for "top-of-the-line" watches. The press of the time, indicated that the employees were paid the highest salaries in the local area.

It is worth noting that three Hampden employees went on to found the Hamilton Watch Co.

In 1885 or 1886 Dueber visited the factory and was so impressed that he bought a controlling interest in it. After some difficulties with the city, he decided to build a factory in a location where he could combine both watch and case making. He thought the factories would be attractive to some city, so he stated that any city that would raise \$100,000 for his move would get the company. Canton OH did this as well as offering him other attractive conditions.

Almost 2000 lots were set up around the plant, so that current workers in the companies could relocate. A cyclone destroyed one of the new buildings just as it was being completed. The building was 230 feet by 30 feet and three stories high. The company was uninsured and had to absorb the loss - \$15,000. Can you imagine just \$15,000 for a building of that size?

The company prospered, but there was stiff competition, particularly from the Boss Patent Watch Case Co., which had developed much cheaper ways to make cases. Dueber weathered the challenge and even branched, successfully, into making bicycles. Because business was so good, the company actually worked four nights a week, which was almost unheard of in any industry of the time. The watches were recognized as being among the best being made anywhere.

Dueber died in 1907. The Duebers lost five children in infancy. Their son Joseph who trained as a watchmaker died at the age of 28.

The Dueber Company was separate from the Hampden one and each acted separately. No one seems to know why this was so. They were finally combined in 1923 and sold not long after. The company then started a downhill slide accelerated by the depression. During the depression many workers were given watches in lieu of pay. Those employees who invested in the company were the Enron employees of the thirties.

*(Continued on page 12)*



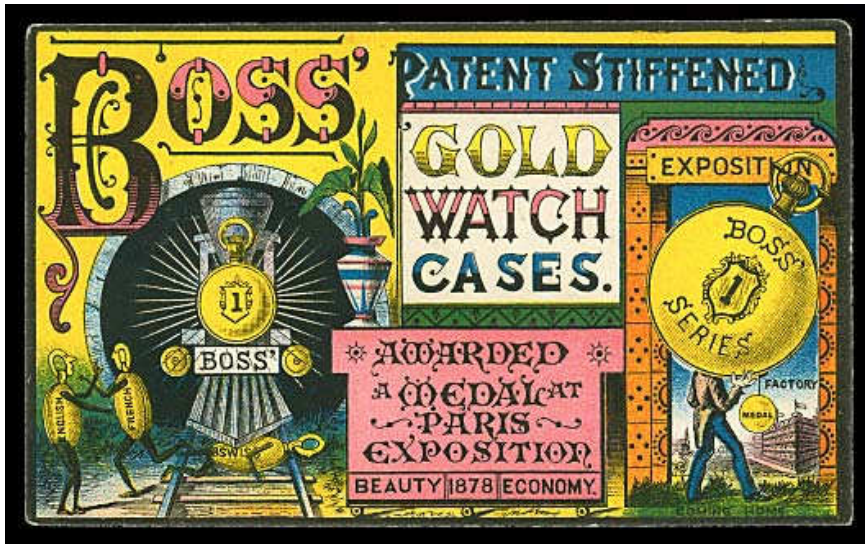
(Continued from page 11)

The company's assets were eventually sold to the Soviet Union. The deal included employing Americans to set up factories and to train the Russians on how to manufacture watches. It took 28 freight cars to move the tools and materials across the country to the ship that took it on to Russia.

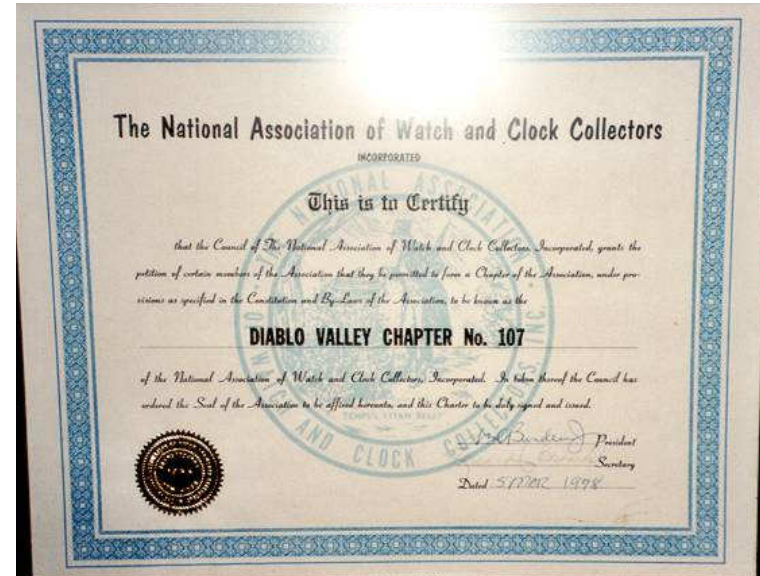
I developed an interest in clocks and acquired several. As you know they take up a lot of room. I ran out of room but not interest, so I began to think about watches. As I looked around, I found that Hampden watches of the same age, size, and apparent quality were selling for less than watches of the more well known brands. With interest in buying some, I began to read about the company that made them and found out about Dueber. He was truly a man of "The American" experience.

*Roy Clark*

## DUEBER'S COMPETITION



## CHAPTER 107 CHARTER 5 MARCH 1978



## 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 DVD 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.)

**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 7, 2008  
 May 2, 2008  
 July 2008 - None  
 September 2008 - None  
 November 7, 2008  
 January 2, 2009

**SUNDAY & BOARD**

April 13, 2008  
 June 8, 2008  
 August 10, 2008  
 October 12, 2008  
 December 14, 2008  
 February 8, 2009

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.**



Two  
Hampden  
Watches



**Closing Thought**

**A committee is a group that keeps minutes  
and loses hours.**

**Milton Berle**