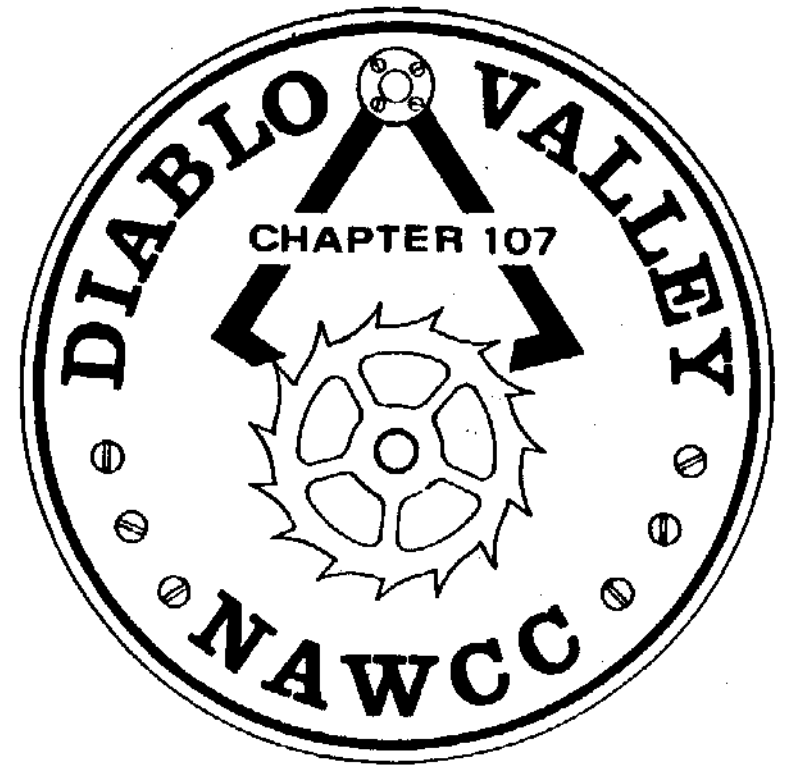


BULLETIN



August 2011
Volume 196

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

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Refreshment	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	
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Meeting Notice

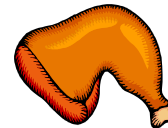
Annual Picnic and
White Elephant Auction
August 14, 2011

Meet 11:30 (No Mart), Feast 12:00
Auction after Lunch

Grange Hall
743 Diablo Road
Danville

Picnic

Please bring one of the following based on the first
letter of your surname:



A-E Chips/dips/cut fruit
F-Ko Dessert
Kp-S Green salad or veggies
T-Z Beans/pasta/potato salad



See page 6 for more details



White Elephant Auction



This is your opportunity to get rid of your horological
excess and acquire lots of new treasures.
No item is too humble for this grand affair.
Contribute to the fun by participating.
All funds go to support the chapter.

President's Message

Well, what an exciting June meeting we had! Our inaugural Silent Auction was a raging success. We all send sincere thanks to John Stohr's family for donating a very large lot of John's hand tools, materials, and books for the Chapter's benefit. Additional thanks go out to Price Russ who picked up items from Stohr's home, sorted 'likes with likes', and organized everything for auction. Price does many things for the Chapter that aren't obvious to many members, plus he edits this *Bulletin*.

Speaking of which, I am making a serious appeal. Price, after years of writing our wonderful and informative newsletter 'gave notice' a few months ago that it was time to pass the baton. So far those that are considering doing this great service for the Chapter have not yet contacted me. We owe it to Price to take the reins and allow him to catch his breath a little after many years of service. I am formally requesting that those of you who thought about doing this, carefully consider it again. I ask that you contact either me, or Price. Remember now, there are truly 'only' 6 issues per year. Members do contribute a fair amount, so it may not be as much work as you fear. Please think again, and call one of us soon. Thanks for helping your Chapter!

Summer is here, and running away. It's time once again for our annual picnic. Come one, come all, and bring your purses and wallets for the White Elephant Auction where we all try to bring a couple of items for everyone to join in the fun of aggressively outbidding each other. Please, go through your horological area, gather up a few odd tools and clocks that you know you'll never get to, and bring them to the auction. Remember the proceeds help us offset expenses for the Christmas Party and the Picnic.

Last but definitely not least. A big thank you goes out to Rick Hubble for June's program "Gearing up for a Challenge". He explained the trials and tribulations of researching materials, and spending many hours rebuilding & converting a machine for cutting gears that he needed for one of his clocks! Thank you Rick!!.

Chip

Editor's Page

Over the last month or so I have been puttering around with various accumulated projects, most of which involve fixing tools rather than timepieces per se. One project, below, involved resuscitating a 6 mm lathe that was in sorry shape. These projects have been a lot of fun and have demonstrated the advantages of having good basic tools for turning, cutting, and measuring. Rick Hubble's presentation on wheel cutting illustrated the point.

Another major activity was sorting the materials donated by John Stohr's family. It was a wonderful donation to the Chapter, see page 6. I felt very close to John sorting through his material.

I want to thank Chip and Celeste for contributing articles to this issue. Celeste, a real world-traveler, consistently manages to find interesting horological items during her trips and reports on them in the *Bulletin*. I encourage others to follow her example. In addition to providing an article, Chip was a great help in organizing and storing the Stohr materials and has taken on most of the responsibility for the picnic. Thank him when you see him. Linda Towers also deserves thanks for the delicious cookies she made and agreeing to be the refreshment committee chair (and only member). Having refreshments definitely improves the meeting experience.

The recent, unexpected death of Frank Keillor, treasurer of Chapter 5, was an unwelcome reminder of the importance of keeping good records of Chapter business and having at least two people aware of Chapter finances and approved to sign on all accounts. Thanks to Walt Hubrig, our financial records are in good order, but we should consider ourselves reminded of the importance of transparent and preferably redundant record keeping.

Price



STOHR FAMILY DONATION TO CHAPTER

As those who attended the June meeting already know, John Stohr's family generously donated John's hand tools and horological material to the Chapter. Items that leant themselves to being collected in small batches were sold through the June silent auction. The rest will be up for auction at the upcoming meeting. All proceeds go to the Chapter. This is a real opportunity to acquire quality supplies. The October *Bulletin* will include coverage of the overall results. In the meantime, let us thank Marsha Stohr and her husband Jamie Calderwood. Hopefully they will join us for the picnic.

PICNIC AND AUCTION PLANNING

As usual the Chapter will provide meat, drinks, utensils, and so forth. We will have chicken from Back 40 and links prepared by Chip. Chip is also bringing corn. Last year we were short on carbs, so a fourth category called "beans, pasta, potato salad" has been added to the list of what members should bring. Last year we bought way too much food. This year's orders are being scaled back accordingly.

Because of the auction, there will not be a mart. Quite a few items from John Stohr have been held for the auction, but your contributions are also needed.

IN MEMORIUM

Marshall Kamena, an active Chapter member until overtaken by poor health a few years ago, passed away on June 21. Marshall is said to have been one of those people who could fix anything. Marshall was born in Berkeley in 1917 with Alta Bates, herself, in attendance. During the war he served simultaneously on the staff of Eisenhower and Churchill. After the war, he worked for Pacific Telephone as an internal auditor until his retirement in 1986. Our deepest sympathies go to Marshall's family and friends.

MOORISH CLOCK TOWER GUAYAQUIL ECUADOR

Although the tower itself is not as old as the clock it houses, the Moorish Clock Tower is beautiful to behold. The clock was imported from England using money that was loaned to the local municipality by Don Manuel Antonio Lizárraga – a rich Spanish merchant with the means and desire to do



good for the people of his country. Initially the clock was housed in a small tower that was inaugurated in October in 1842. The inauguration came at a desperate time for the people of the town since they had just suffered the worst yellow fever epidemic that Guayaquil had ever seen. Still, the unveiling of the clock was greeted with open arms by the people of the city. In 1903 the decision was made to move the clock and its tower from the City Hall, which was slated for destruction, to the Town Hall. Unfortunately this meant that the clock's toll could not be heard so clearly in the city which was important since the clock toll was not only used to indicate the hour but also the presence of pirate ships. Hence the decision was made to add on an additional two stories to the tower. The addition to the tower was designed by N. Bordeline, an Italian engineer, and the three parts were to be made entirely of carved wood. Likely this tower was very beautiful but unfortunately it could not withstand the ravages of time and the washing of the waves which corroded the wooden base. Eventually the original tower and its many additions had to be completely demolished and a new tower was put up in its place.

The current tower is made almost entirely of brick, and it is built in a beautiful Moorish style. It is situated right across the road from the beach and can be found near the elemental sculptures, the Guayaquil Yacht Club, and the Naval Yacht Club. There is enough space for 120 cars to park as well as a security area, rest rooms, and a first aid center.

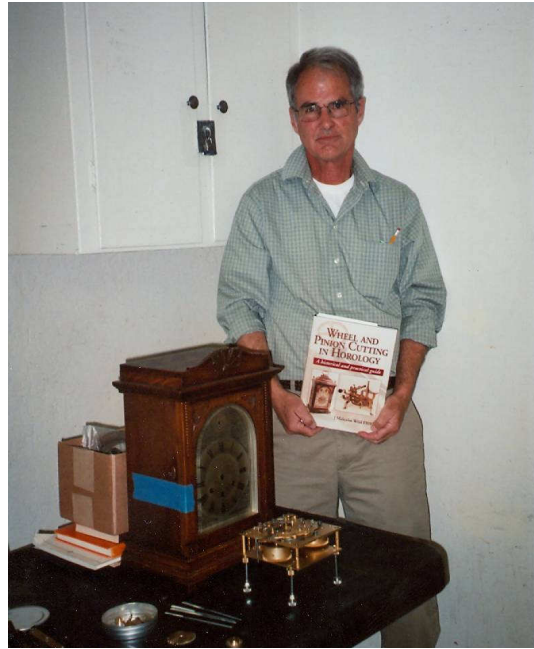
Celeste Q. Graham



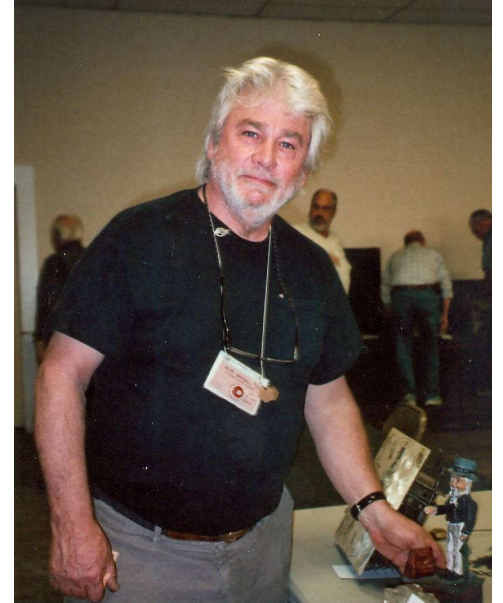
Seth Finkelstein

June 2011 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Rick Hubble - speaker



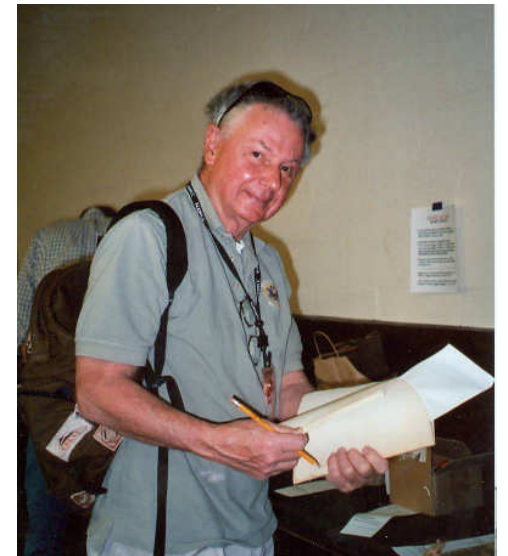
Mike Waddell



Dale Gardner



Linda Towers



Mike Kookan

THE ANTON CLOCK

Built in Nuremberg, Germany in 1709, the Anton Clock has for many years been part of a vast, varied and eclectic collection of antiques and artifacts at the Mission Inn in Riverside. The three story high clock overlooks a colorful bougainvillea filled courtyard. Resembling a gigantic cuckoo clock, the Anton Clock has five rotating figures at its base which were added below it's dial in 1953. The figures portray explorer Juan Bautista deAnza, Fr. Junipero Serra, a Native American, a California bear, and St. Francis.



What eventually became the Mission Inn, started as a 12 room boardinghouse called the "Glenwood Cottage" built by civil engineer Christopher Columbus Miller in 1876. Taken over by his son Frank Augustus and his wife Isabella Miller, the current 'Mission wing' broke ground in 1902. The grand hotel now covers a square block, has 200 unique rooms, and has been the prized destination of many notorieties including Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, & Nixon as well as Ginger Rogers & John Muir.

The original Anton clock dial shown here has long since been removed and is preserved in part of the hotel's museum.

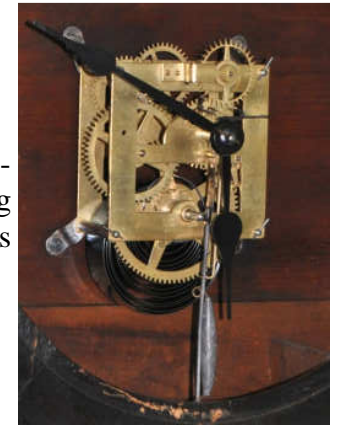


The name *Anton Clock* is said to come from *The Vision of Anton the Clock Maker*, a story by Walter Dyer. The museum director was not able to say who made the clock but has promised to investigate the question,. Stay tuned for an update. (It seems Mr. Miller liked collecting more than documenting what he collected.)

Chip Kumparak

Wait. Don't Tell Me!

There is something fishy about the pendulum in this clock. It has a fishing weight on the pendulum rod. What is its purpose?



What is the significance of this Bulova advertisement from July 1, 1941? Does anyone remember it?

This "magnetic clock" was designed by Francis Line in about 1634. It consists of a liquid-filled glass sphere with a copper ball suspended in the middle. The ball marked with longitude (time) lines turns once per day. Time is indicated by a small fish just visible in the red circle. If disturbed the ball will quickly reorient itself and indicate the correct time. Claims were made that this device supported the geocentric model of the solar system. How does it work?



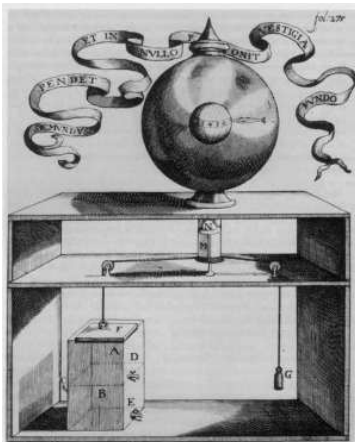
OK, Now Tell Me.

In order to get the clock to keep correct time and keep the bob centered in the lower glass, it was necessary to raise the center of gravity of the pendulum. This was accomplished by placing the weight near the top of the rod, which shortened the effective length of the pendulum. Assuming the movement is original to the case, it is hard to understand how the pendulum was originally configured to both look and run “right”.



It is the first legal advertisement to appear on television. It appeared on NBC the first day that commercial television was authorized, lasted ten seconds, and was superimposed over a test pattern. (Do you remember test patterns?) A voiceover announced “America runs on Bulova time”. The ad preceded a Brooklyn Dodgers - Phillies game and cost less than \$10. The Phillies won 6 to 4.

In 1641 Athanasius Kircher (1601 – 1680), a German Jesuit scholar, revealed the secret of Line’s clock. The copper ball contains a magnet with the poles aligned horizontally. Another magnet similarly oriented is located in the base. The base magnet is turned by a water clock in the base. The copper ball can be supported either by a thin thread or at the junction of two immiscible liquids of different density but same color. Obviously the motion of the ball had nothing to do with whether the solar system was geocentric or heliocentric. Stanford University has a reconstruction of Kirchner’s clock.



ELECTRIC GRID EXPERIMENT

Since 1930 electric clocks have kept time based on the frequency of the alternating current. This frequency has been closely regulated, so the clocks kept good time. Maintaining this constant frequency is expensive and can cause other problems. It is also becoming more difficult with the introduction of various power sources such as solar and wind that come on and off the power grid unpredictably.

An experiment has been proposed in which the frequency will be allowed to drift and determine if it causes significant problems. Over a year, East Coast clocks may drift by 20 minutes. West Coast clocks are expected to drift less, about 8 minutes. All devices using synchronous motors and those that flash 12:00 after a power outage will be affected.

When your editor lived in Hawaii, the power company lost its synchronization over a weekend. The resulting difference among clocks in equipment he was using about drove him crazy for several days until he found out the cause.

CHAPTER LIBRARIES

BOOK: The Chapter book library is located at Classical Clocks and Antiques, 1082 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.

NOTICES FROM MEMBERS

(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological - wanted, for sale, giveaway, services, and so forth.)

CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

Mart: 11:30AM
 Chapter: 12:30PM
 Board: after the Chapter Meeting

Future Meeting Dates

October 9, 2011	December 11, 2011
February 12, 2012	April 8, 2012
June 10, 2012	August 12, 2012

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.

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

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

DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

(except August and December)

743 Diablo Road, Danville

Take Interstate 680 to the Diablo Road exit in Danville. Go east on Diablo Road for 0.6 mile. The Grange Hall will be on your right. Parking is available in the front and rear. Enter from the front; *i.e.*, street side. Facing the building from the street, there is a ramp on the right side for handicap and cart access.

OTHER CHAPTER NEWS

The original charter for Chapter 107, which was previously reported as missing, was resting quietly in John Stohr's garage. For now Chip is storing it.

Through careful shopping and tough negotiation, Ron Bechler acquired a digital projector for the Chapter for only \$40! New they retail for several hundred dollars. Way to go Ron and THANK YOU!

Price Russ has archived the DVD library on a hard drive, so if any DVDs are lost, new copies can be created. Please keep in mind that the presentations are copyrighted. Users are not to make copies.

Closing Thought

Take care in your minutes, and the hours will take care of themselves.

Lord Chesterfield (1584-1656)