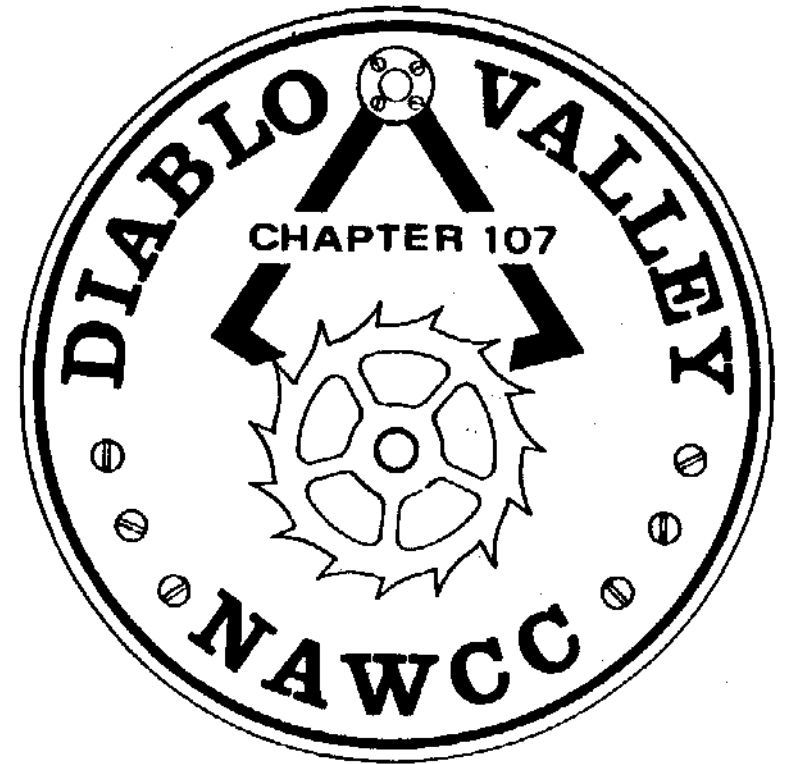


BULLETIN



October 2011
Volume 197

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

OFFICERS

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Meeting Notice

October 9, 2011

Meet 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Grange Hall
743 Diablo Road
Danville

Show and Tell

by

The Membership

Bring something horologically interesting and tell us about it.

(It does not have to be as fancy as the clock shown below.)



Picture Clock: St. Stephen's Cathedral Vienna

President's Message

Hello again Chapter Members – First, I wish to thank everyone for bringing the wonderful assortment of food for the August Picnic. As usual we had plenty of delicious entrées, salads, and desserts. I even noticed the very thoughtful sugar free candy for those of us that can't (or shouldn't) have sugar!

Second, I'm sure I can speak for the Chapter as a whole – that we have a very sincere and warm **THANK YOU** to the family of our dearly departed friend, long time member, and officer John Stohr for the sizeable donation to our Chapter. They donated many items from John's workshop. For those that missed the June meeting, we had the 1st of our 'regular' silent auctions where a sizeable round of the John's workshop items were auctioned off. As we all know, a second even larger batch we all know was auctioned at the Picnic. We can't thank John's family enough, but this act will add to our many delightful memories of John's high energy at our functions, and his nearly always smiling face...We miss him greatly !

Now to the focus of this month's message. "Soliciting". Fear Not!!... It's not as scary a word as it sounds !

Since we decided to have a Silent Auction at every meeting, I ask everyone to do some "fall cleaning" and make some cash for yourself! Bring an item or 10 for the auction, please.

December means nominating and electing our Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs. Please consider donating a few hours (at most) by serving in one of these positions. Frankly, some Chairmanship spots need 'responsibilities' added to spread the load a bit, but for nearly all positions very little effort is required. So please step up to the 'little' challenge, and come make Chapter 107 "The" Chapter it deserves to be by adding your positive influence and effort. Also, encourage other Chapter members to serve, get their 'permission', and then nominate them for a position.

Chip

Editor's Page

On the next page you will find two examples of very good news. I won't hint at what they are, but they are very good indeed. More will be written about the second item in the near future. You will also find brief discussions of several topics that we need to discuss at the upcoming meeting. Please bring your ideas.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the White Elephant Sale and helped with the picnic. Chip particularly deserves recognition. Additional thanks and Happy Birthday go to Morgan Towers who took pictures during the auction. I did not identify the people in the pictures on pages 8 and 9 because the focus was more on the food and fair than the individuals.

Thanks also go to Bob Wahrer for his article on sun dials and Nile Godfrey for his behind the scenes work that made the second bit of good news possible. Speaking of Nile, have you visited his new store? If you attended the open house, I'm sure you were impressed. If you have not seen it, drop by and have a look. If you are lucky, you might get to meet Max, the official greeter.

Price



(Photograph by Jerry Konicheck)

AUCTION RESULTS

The silent auction in June and the White Elephant Auction in August raised \$1431 for the Chapter. This substantially improves our financial position. About 3/4 of this came from the donation of John Stohr's materials. Thanks go to all who donated and made purchases, especially Marsha Stohr.

NEW EDITOR

Tina Thomas, no known relation to Seth, has volunteered to become the editor of the *Bulletin*. She will phase into the position over the next couple of issues. Let's all give her our support and assistance.

IMPORTANT CHAPTER BUSINESS

The December meeting is when we elect officers and board members. It will also be our annual Holiday Luncheon. At the October meeting we need to discuss where we want to hold the luncheon. If you have a suggestion, come prepared with specifics including cost, availability of space for the auction, and accessibility. For planning purposes, assume 45 people and \$30 per head including tax and tip. (The \$30 includes \$10 from Chapter funds.)

The slate of candidates for office will be put together after the October meeting. Suggestions for candidates can be submitted to any officer or board member. Consider volunteering.

In an effort to grow our mart, guests have not been asked to pay for admission or to have a table. Now that the mart is on a good footing, it is time to consider charges for guests. This needs to be discussed now, so a policy can be implemented for 2012.

In the past we had "show and tell" as part of each meeting. Members would bring in horological items and briefly discuss them. The discussion varied from repair problems, to history, to curiosity. We also had a raffle, typically a tool or book. The raffle was discontinued for a combination of lack of interest and to save money. Is there interest in bringing back these activities?

THE GARDEN SUNDIAL

Sundials are frequently sold as garden ornaments. These are understandably not designed for the most accurate time keeping. As we know, if a sundial is to display the correct local solar time, it must be designed specifically for the latitude at which it is to be installed. The edge of the gnomon (pointer) must be parallel with the earth's axis. This angle is equal to the geographical latitude. In addition, the angular spacing between hour marks on the dial are also dependent upon the latitude.

Some sundials are much better than others. The sundial at right is a reasonable compromise for use in our area. Measurement indicate that it is designed for 42° latitude, which is the California/Oregon border. If this dial is mounted horizontally in the Bay Area, it would be accurate at noon

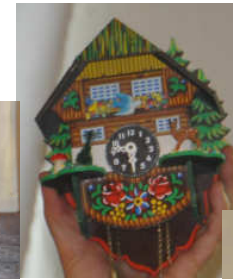


and 6:00 (AM & PM) but indicate "slow" by 12 minutes at 9:00 AM & 3:00 PM. This may be acceptable for a garden ornament considering that the correction for the equation of time and the poor readability of the shadow can introduce an error of 15 to 20 minutes. The error for latitude can be eliminated by tilting this sundial northwards by 5° which will align the gnomon parallel to the earth's axis.

Even if the gnomon is at the correct angle, it is important that the dial markings are correct. The angular position for these are calculated by a trigonometric formula and will not be uniform. On the dial above, the angle between XII & I is less than half of that between V & VI. The hour lines must be parallel to the top edge of the gnomon and the base of the gnomon must be exactly on the line between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Continued on page 13

August 2011 Meeting



ANTON CLOCK FOLLOW UP

Chip Kumparak is continuing to follow up on the story of the Anton Clock discussed in the August issue. It appears likely that only the dial dates to 1709. *The Vision of Anton, The Clock-Maker* from which the clock takes its name can be found on the internet. It was published in the July 1910 edition of *The Craftsman* magazine. A few copies will be available at the meeting for those who want to read the story.

If the dial and by inference hands are really from 1709, it is a fairly early example of the use of the minute hand, which became common only around 1690 when the pendulum was introduced.

POSSIBLY USEFUL INFORMATION

If you get confused on what adhesive is best for a particular job, the web site www.masterbond.com may be helpful. While it is specific to one company, it has lots of information about adhesives.

WARD GOODRICH AND THE DALE LATHE

In his well known book, *The Watchmaker's Lathe*, Ward Goodrich refers to the "Dale Lathe" by Stephen A. Dale. Dale became the dominant split chuck maker in the early 1900s as a result of his breakthroughs in precision and cost. According to a 1972 article in *American Horologist and Jeweler* by J. E. Coleman, while Dale worked for Harding Brothers who made lathes, there never was a Dale lathe per se. Coleman bases his claim on statements by Dale's son. It seems the name Dale appeared on so many chucks many watchmakers thought they were using Dale lathes. A close up of a Dale collet is shown.



The Modern Clock is another well known book by Goodrich. Like the Dale lathe, according to Coleman, Ward Goodrich never existed either. It was apparently the pen name of C. E. Walker of the publishing firm Hazlitt & Walker. Walker was familiar with bench work but not a practicing horologist.

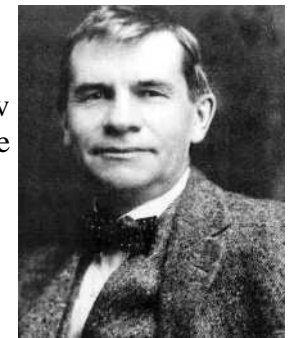
Wait. Don't Tell Me!

The academic fraternity Phi Beta Kappa awards "keys" to its members. What is the origin of this key?



Based on style which of these painted dials is probably older? Of what periods are they typical.

This is the famous furniture designer Gustav Stickley (1858 - 1942). How does he relate to this *Bulletin*?



What is Roman striking?

Collets, also called split chucks or wire chucks, for watchmakers' lathes are usually described by the diameter of their bodies and secondarily by what they fit. The one on the left is 8 mm WW style, the most common. The one on the right is a 6 mm Geneva style. What are the ones in the middle?



OK, Now Tell Me.

It is a key to wind the member's pocket watch. Originally members received a fob. The key was added later.

The dial on the right is from the period 1770-1800. Such dials typically have Roman numbering for hours, Arabic five-minute numbering, and simple corner decorations. The dial on the left is from the period 1830-1870. The hour numbers are Roman but without minute numbering. Corner decorations tend to be full color scenes. Between 1800 and 1830, the hour numbering is usually Arabic. That said, this dial with Roman numbering can be dated to 1811-1835 by the name on the back, Walker & Hughes (Birmingham).



Stickley was the publisher of *The Craftsman* magazine, see the story about the Anton clock. In addition to manufacturing furniture he was a promoter of the American Arts and Crafts movement. The magazine published from 1901 through 1916 promoted the Arts and Crafts ideals of "simplicity, honest in construction, and truth to materials". Electronic copies of the magazine are available on the internet.

Clocks with Roman striking have two bells of different pitch. The lower pitched bell represents five. The higher pitched one represents one. Four would be sounded by one strike of the higher pitched bell followed by one strike of the lower pitched one. Six would be sounded the other way around. This rather efficient system died out in the early 18th century. Roman striking would seem to be most appropriate for clocks with "IV" rather than "IIII" on the dial.

The larger of the two is an 8 mm Moseley style. It won't fit the more common WW style lathe. The difference in shape is rather obvious. The smaller of the two is a 6.5 mm size (0.254"), Whitcomb 1½. On a mart table, it could easily be mistaken for a 6 mm Geneva style. Collets come in many sizes and with subtle differences. Caveat emptor.

Continued from page 7

The dial at right is totally useless. Here the hour marks are spaced uniformly. This sun dial would require the gnomon at a 90° angle and only be correct at the North Pole. Definitely not the place for a "garden" sundial. If this dial is to be used in the Bay Area it would have to be tilted at a 37° angle and can be used only during the spring & summer. In addition, the "N-S-E-W" rose would not make sense since every direction from the North Pole is south.



With a few observations, one can determine whether a particular sundial may be close to workable:

1. Is the gnomon angle close to your latitude? (30° to 45°)
2. Is the base of the gnomon on the 6:00 AM-PM line?
3. Are the hour angles small near noon and larger at 6:00? (4:00 should be at about 45°.)
4. Are the hour lines parallel to the edge of the gnomon?

If it meets these criteria, it may indicate the correct solar time within +/- 30 minutes.

For more information on sundials, see Waugh's book *Sundials-Their Theory and Construction*, which is available in the Chapter library.

Bob Wahrer

NOTICES FROM MEMBERS

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

Place your notice here.

CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

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

Future Meeting Dates

December 11, 2011	February 12, 2012
April 8, 2012	June 10, 2012
August 12, 2012	October 14, 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 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.

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.

Closing Thought

Someone once told me that time is a predator that stalked us all our lives. But I rather believe that time is a companion who goes with us on the journey that reminds us to cherish every moment because they'll never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we live it.

Captain Jean Luc Picard 1994