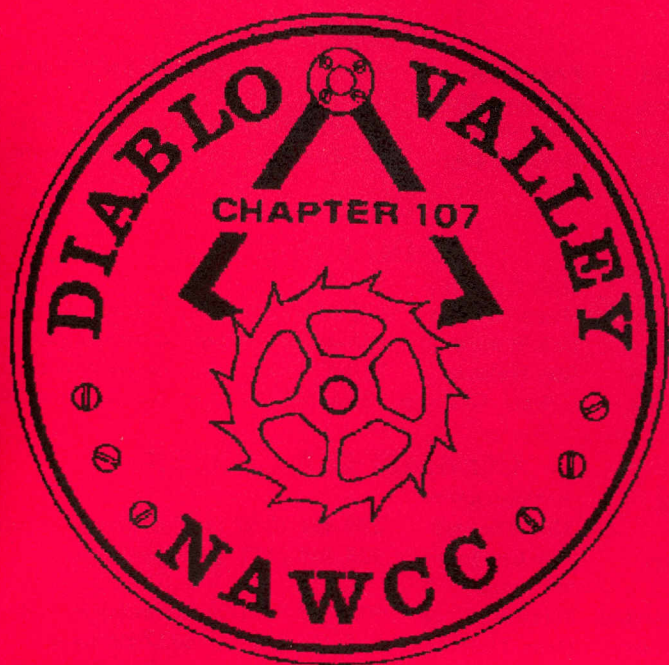


BULLETIN



December 2013
Volume 210

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.community.nawcc.org/chapter107

email account chapter107nawcc@gmail.com

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

OFFICERS

President	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Vice Pres.	Clarence Kobel	925-447-3383	
Secretary	Ross Smith	925-820-2180	mainuse@msn.com
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Past Pres.	N/A		

DIRECTORS

2013	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	
2013	Dean Thomas	925-455-0929	dno337@att.net
2013	Bob Wahrer	925-462-4912	bob_wahrer@yahoo.com
2013-2014	Roy Holman	510-530-5428	royholman@gmail.com
2013-2014	Celeste Graham	925-676-7525	cqgraham@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	****open****		
Editor	Tina Thomas	209-481-3930	justfourkicks@comcast.net
Library	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	jng3@aol.com
Mart	****open****		
Membership	Jerry Konicek	510-783-6451	jakonicek@pacbell.net
Nominating	Dean Thomas	925-455-0929	dno337@att.net
Photo	Jerry Konicek	510-783-6451	jakonicek@pacbell.net
Program	Vice President		
Refreshment	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	lindatowers@hotmail.com
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Video Library	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

N.A.W.C.C. Diablo Valley
Chapter #107 December Meeting

BACK FORTY ROADHOUSE & SALOON

100 Coggins Drive, Pleasant Hill, Ca. 925-935-1440

Sunday December 08, 2013, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Please bring and wear your badges

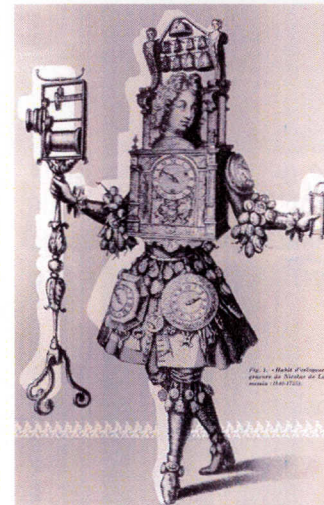
Program:

Election of 2014 Officers and Directors:

Auction of Quality Pieces:

Bring your serious Clocks and Watches, Related Timepieces, and Supplies of High Quality. You keep all the money .

Nothing for the Chapter. This is your big Chance of the year. Look over Your Collection and make Someone Happy. BRING THEM ALONG!



President's Message

With the end of the year, comes the end of my term as your President. I have had a lot of fun, and I think together we have done some good things. We have had some interesting programs. The by-laws were revised. Our mart continues to improve. Membership has grown. The Chapter now has a web page and email. None of this would have happened without the hard work of the officers, board, and Chapter members like you. Thank you.

Looking forward, I plan to propose to the board that we set aside funds to support bringing in a distinguished outside speaker once a year and that we purchase a video camera so that we can record presentations and add them to our video library. A video camera would also be useful for presentations involving close-up work such as watch repairs. Those who attended the last Chapter 5 meeting saw a good example of this. What are your thoughts on these ideas?

As usual there are a number of people who deserve special recognition. At the October meeting, Jim Haubert gave a very special presentation in which he shared both his horological achievements and his thoughts on engineering and creativity. Bob Simon generously opened his home, so that members could see his collection. I was not able to attend but have heard good things about it. John Koepke and Ron Bechler donated material for the video library (see page 7). Nile Godfrey and Ron Bechler arranged to give our mart first crack at large collection of materials donated to Chapter 5. Chapter 5 got the proceeds. We got to purchase tools and materials. I for one got several interesting items. Our relationship with Chapter 5 is probably unique in that we share resources such as the video library and Chapter 5 generously let's us use their projector.

In closing let me say that I am looking forward to working with the new board and officers and to the continuing success of our chapter. See you at the luncheon.

Price

Editor's Choice

Check out what I found on
www.clock-museum.co.uk/

Barrie's Virtual Clock Museum

Synchrone Section

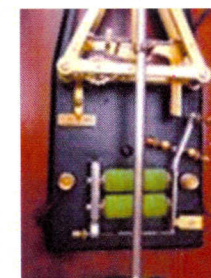
For more info on [The Standard Master or 'A Frame' clock. Notes, dates, Variations etc.](#) Go to Barries info above

The Double A Frame Movement



Around 1920 (1922 according to Rita Shenton in "Collectable clocks" or 1919 from other sources), The Synchrone Company introduced a new model, now often called the "Double A Frame" or AA frame clock which had been patented during the 1914-18 war. It was found that it did not provide any great improvement in accuracy and needed expert technical skill

to set up and maintain so it only remained in production for one year and only about 150 clocks were produced.



Continued on page 7



Thank you Bob for opening your home to the Chapter members. We all enjoyed looking over your clock collection

" Early 1900s Swiss Magneta Master Clock that generated it's own electricity which was then used to control slave clocks and bell ringing in a school.



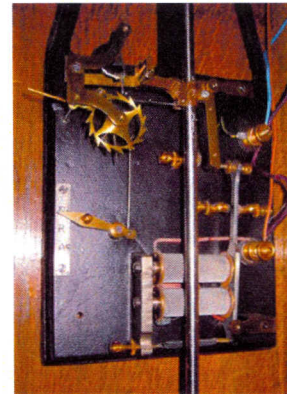
NEW MEMBERS

It's exciting to have 2 new members join chapter 107 Rick Hubble and Walt Wallgren. Please introduce yourself to them at our next event



Found this browsing the web. Know one seems to have any info on it. Thought it looked interesting and wanted to share the mystery. [Www.provenceguide.co.uk](http://www.provenceguide.co.uk)

Continued from page 5



The "A" frame movement

In 1908 the company produced the now famous "A" frame movement and from that time on all genuine Synchronome clocks were given a serial number.

There were some minor variations in the movement of early models, for example early clocks had slightly different arrangements of the latch for the gravity arm and had no buffer to limit the travel of the gravity arm.

Useful date clues: After 1926 a buffer was fitted to all "A" frame movements. Up to circa 1930, the A frame was a fairly roughly finished casting and was painted with a black paint, often quite dull, almost matt, in appearance. Later clocks have a better finish to the casting and black crackle finish.

In the spark suppression circuit, wire wound resistors were used up to the 30's and carbon resistors thereafter. (These resistors are hidden behind the "A" frame)

The coil of the electromagnet which resets the gravity arm was wound with green coloured silk insulated wire in early clocks. Later clocks have a winding of enamelled wire finished with a wrapping of a black material. One source suggested that the changeover was circa 1934 but my records show at least some green wound coils up to 1950. No doubt there was a period when coils of both types would have been in stock.

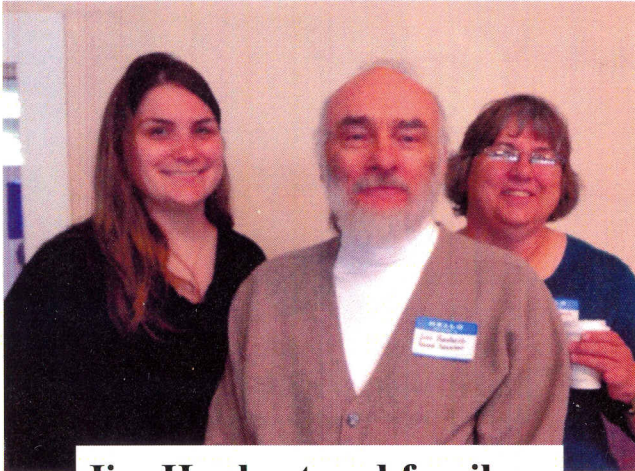
Continued on page 11

President's Message

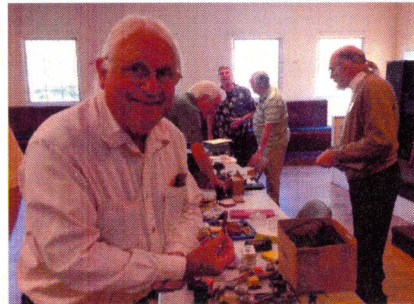
The following five items have been added to the video library and the online library catalog has been updated.

- K&D Catalogs, Articles, and Historical Information (CD)
- Becken 1915 Catalog (CD)
- Dr. Crom Collection (DVD video visit to his home)
- Tour of the American Waltham Factory's Works (DVD)
- Life in the Towers (DVD on tower clocks)

October 2013 Meeting



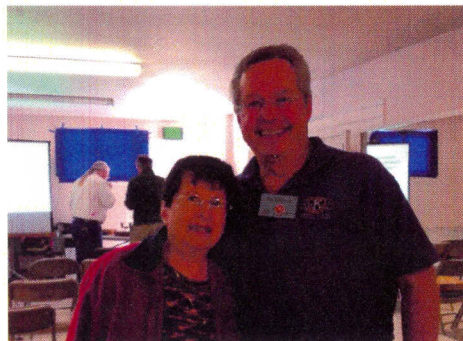
Jim Haubert and family



Dave's big Mart find



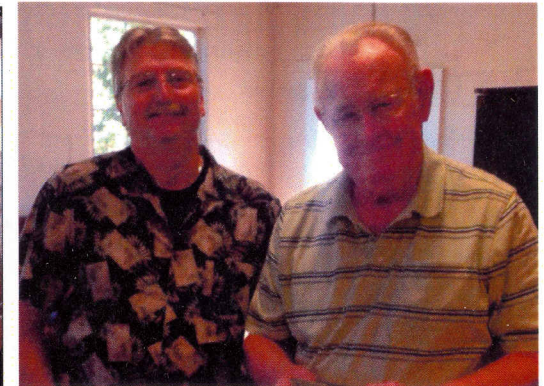
Sofie and Jason



Mart



Jay, Clarence, Ross and Seth



Chip and Ron



John and Dale



Jay, Don & Raymond

Quick guide to the date of a Smiths Clock

When did it all start?

The Smiths group plc claim an ancestry dating back to 1851 when a Samuel Smith had a shop in Newington Causeway, London. but it does not appear that Smiths considered the manufacture of domestic clocks seriously until 1931 when a new company called "Smiths English Clocks Ltd" was formed for that purpose.

Earliest Date for a "Smiths Clock".

The earliest date possible for one of the mass production clocks commonly referred to as a "Smiths" is 1931 when "Smiths English Clocks Ltd" was formed. This does not apply to items such as car clocks made by S Smith & Sons (Motor accessories) Ltd. The name on the movement case or cover gives a useful date indication.



If the name is "Smiths English Clocks" it was made between 1931 and 1955



If the name is "Smiths Clocks and Watches" it dates to 1955 or later.

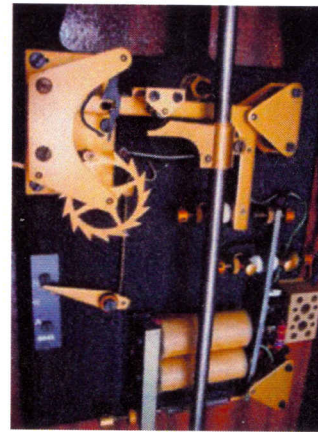


From about 1966 the name "Smiths Industries" appears

on some models.

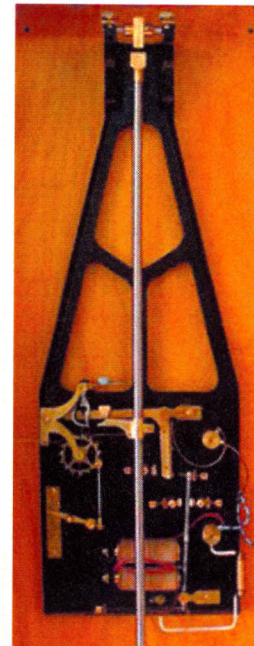
Continued on page 12

Continued from page 7



The Mark II movement

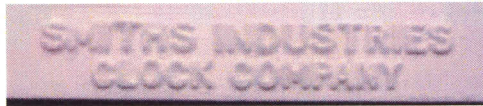
The Mark II movement was introduced around 1962. It strongly resembled the earlier "A" frame movement but had been modified for ease of manufacture with most parts now assembled from stamped brass held together by nuts, bolts and spacers. A separate series of serial numbers was used for clocks with the new movement. Shortly after the movement was introduced, around 1965-70, a new broad case was introduced for the Mark II movement in which the movement was offset from the centerline of the case and the glass in the cases was often painted black.



Synchronome supplied castings and parts

During the 1930s and early 40s the company made castings and parts for the Synchronome "A" frame movement available to enthusiasts. Clocks built from such kits or parts are often found and are frequently finished to a high standard. They can be distinguished from a factory built Synchronome because they have no serial number on the NRA plate. Some clocks built from castings and parts supplied by Synchronome do not have the NRA feature.

Continued from page 10



marked is no earlier than 1977

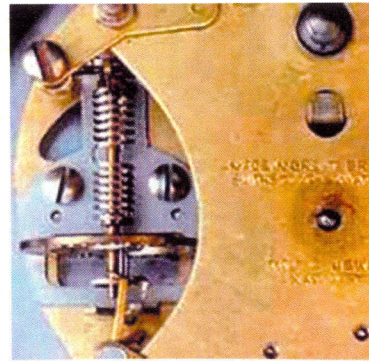
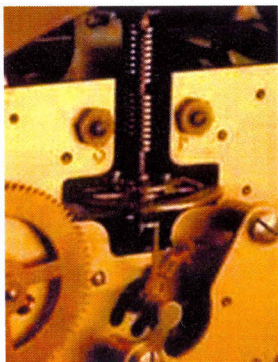
**Clues from the type of movement:
If it is a "wind-up" (mechanical) clock then:**

1. Chime or strike clocks marked Smiths Enfield on the dial or Smith-Enfield on the movement date from 1949 or later.

Reasons for this statement:

Smiths was not established as a company until 1931, and the Enfield Clock company was not taken over by Smiths until 1933. Following the takeover, Smiths allowed Enfield to continue trading under its own name until after the second world war... until circa 1949 when the Enfield production was moved to Wales... so that although Smiths may well have used Enfield movements from as early as 1932 (when the Enfield company commenced business), they did **not** use the "Smiths Enfield" name until 1949. To the best of my knowledge it first appeared in the Smiths catalogues and advertising in 1950

#2 If the clock has a floating balance movement it dates to 1956 or later. Smiths licensed the floating balance from Hettich but by 1960 had developed an improved version capable of easier adjustment using an external calibrated adjustment.

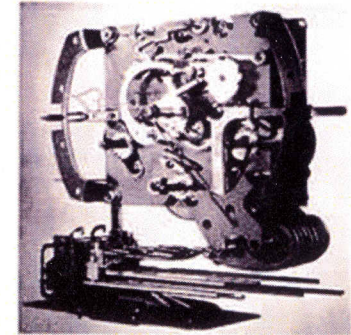


In 1977 the clock division became "Smiths Industries Clock Company" so that a movement so

Continued from page 12

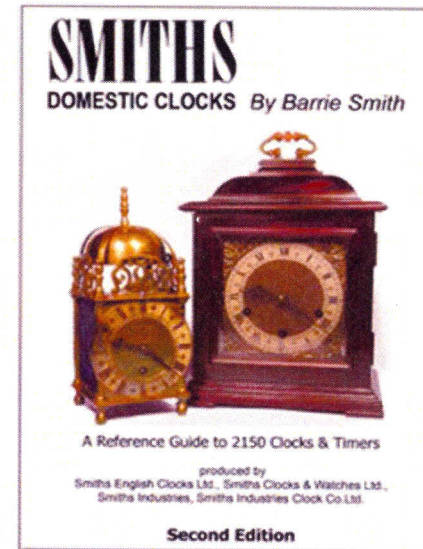
#3 Chime or strike clocks were available from 1933 or before but models with an acoustic chime which had a better sound were not introduced until 1954

Acoustic chime movement shown from front with dial off.



Acoustic chime movement. View from front, dial off

#4 Smiths offered a selectable Westminster/Whittington chime as far back as 1940 but the acoustic chime version was not introduced until 1956



Smiths of Cricklewood were one of the most prolific clock-makers of the twentieth century, and there can be few homes that have not contained at least one of the company's products. Apart from the history of the company and factory photographs, this publication contains a fully indexed picture gallery that will allow collectors, dealers and owners of Smiths clocks to date and name their own clocks and thus add to their knowledge and enjoyment. The reference Guide contains pictures of over 2150 Smiths

If you would like to receive future Bulletins via email
please email me and let me know at
justfourkicks@comcast.net

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 08, 2013
 February ??, 2014 - (second Sunday is not available)

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

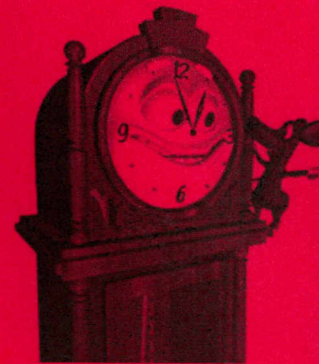
DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

(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.

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.

Disclaimer

Statements of opinion and/or fact made by authors of papers or articles read before or appearing in the publications of the Chapter are to be accepted as the author's own. The Chapter assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or correctness of any statement of its contributors. This statement of responsibility shall appear in each issue of the Bulletin containing any of the foregoing.