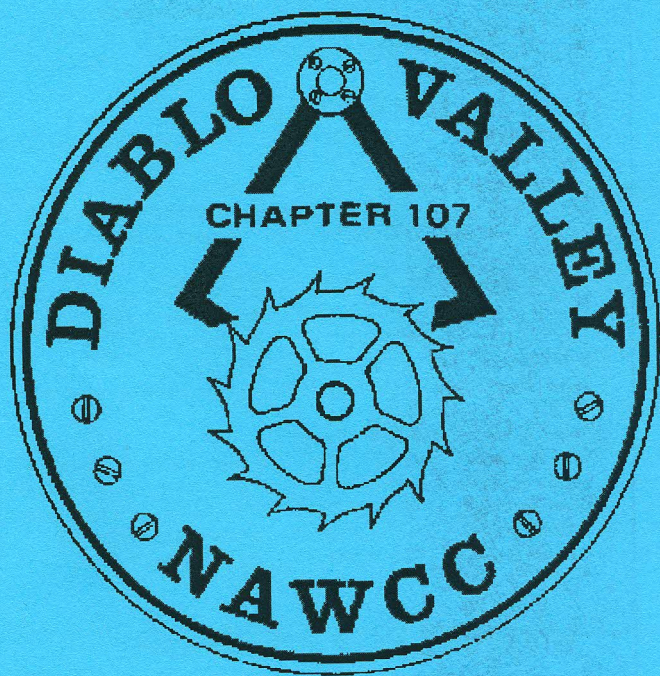


BULLETIN



August 2016
Volume 226

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"

2016 OFFICERS

President	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Vice Pres.	Bob Thomas	209-815-3292	btclock@comcast.net
Secretary	Ross Smith	925-820-2180	mainuse@msn.com
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Past Pres.	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net

DIRECTORS

2016-2017	Ron Bechler	408-926-3212	ronbechler@comcast.net
2016-2017	Dean Thomas	925-455-0929	dno337@att.net
2016-2017	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	lindatowers@hotmail.com
2016	Stan Janczura	925-937-2139	sjanczura@aol.com
2016	Celeste Graham	925-676-7525	cqgraham@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor	Tina Thomas	209-481-3930	ch107bulletin@comcast.net
Library	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	jng3@aol.com
Mart	Nile Godfrey and Bob Thomas		
Membership	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net
Nominating	OPEN		
Photo	John Koepke and Tina Thomas		
Program	Ed Ferguson	925-337-9857	ferguson.ed@comcast.net
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
Web Master	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological - wanted, for sale, give-away, services, and so forth. There is no charge. All you have to do is supply copy to the editor.)

Wanted: Articles for the *Bulletin*. Contact Tina Thomas (209) 481-3930. Or email ch107bulletin@comcast.net.

Meeting Notice

Annual Picnic
and
White Elephant Auction

August 14, 2016

Hosted by Price & Bernice Russ

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE PICNIC

On page 5

August 2016 Picnic Menu

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

Items to bring:
A-F Desert
G-Ko Green salad/vegetable
KP-Si Beans/potato salad/pasta
Sj-Z Chips and dips/fruit



As usual the chapter will provide meat, condiments, and drinks.

We will need a few folding chairs. Anyone who has some, please, bring them

Meet at 11:30, Eat Noon, auction to follow the meal

President's Message

The feedback I received about Dave Weisbart's talk at the last meeting was very favorable. If you missed it, a video is available in the Chapter Library. I think the concept of having an invited speaker once a year has been very successful and should be continued. Do you agree? Let me know. Unfortunately our mass emailing to NAWCC members in the area, didn't result in any new faces attending the meeting. I find it strange that so many NAWCC members choose not to participate at the chapter level. While our membership has been stable over the last few years, we need to attract new people. I would like to learn your ideas for doing this.

Craig Chivatero gave an interesting presentation on GPS at the recent Chapter 5 meeting. We will try to schedule him to talk to our chapter, but in the meantime, a video of his talk has been added to the library. (Note: we share videos with Chapter 5.) The video collection has outgrown the bag I store it in, so I will have to get a bigger one. If you haven't taken advantage of this growing resource, you should.

Later in August I plan to visit Art Bjornstad (LA area) who has a Shortt-Synchrone clock. I am hoping he will be able to help us with the project to renovate the one at the Lick Observatory. On the same trip, I hope to visit Alan Bloore who gave us a great talk on synchronized School Clocks (Feb. 2013), who has written numerous article on electrical horology, and has a serious collection. It should be a fun trip.

Bernice and I are looking forward to hosting picnic and auction. The details appear elsewhere in this Bulletin, so I won't repeat them here. I'll just remind you that this is always a fun event and one that raises funds for the Chapter. I hope you will be able to attend and will contribute to the auction both as a donor and buyer.

Price

PS: The program for October has not been decided upon. If you have ideas let me know.



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.

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

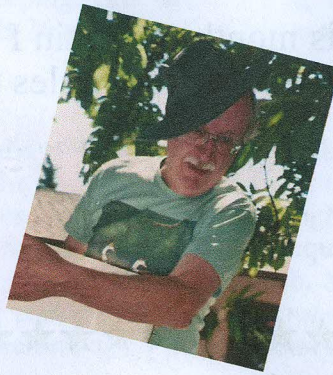
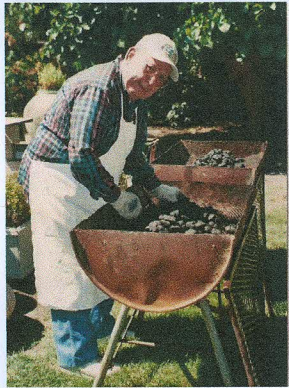
(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological - wanted, for sale, give-away, services, and so forth. There is no charge. All you have to do is supply copy to the editor.)

Wanted: Articles for the *Bulletin*. Contact Tina Thomas (209) 481-3930. Or email ch107bulletin@comcast.net.

August 2011 Meeting



AUGUST 2012 Meeting



August 2013 Meeting



August 2014 Picnic



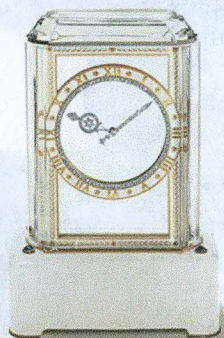
August 2015 Meeting



Mystery CLOCKS

The mystery clock was invented in the 19th century by the illusionist Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin and later developed exclusively for Cartier by the watchmaker Maurice Couët. It is a fascinating object in which the hands appear to float like magic within the crystal, unconnected to any mechanism. Mystery clocks require months of patient work before being lavishly decorated by the jeweler. They are exceptional pieces in Cartier's total production of watches. The first example was the Modèle A, a crystal parallelepiped, produced in 1912. In the 1920s, Maurice Couët developed several versions of the mystery clock, including 12 with Chinese origins and 6 with the "Portique" structure. These have remained the most expensive decorative objects ever produced by Cartier.

Platinum, yellow gold, rock crystal, white agate (base), four sapphire cabochons, rose-cut diamonds, white enamel. Particularly rare, this clock is one of the very first mystery clocks created by Cartier.



Sold to Count Greffulhe, husband to the famous Countess Greffulhe, "the most beautiful woman in Europe" according to Marcel Proust, who partly modeled his character of the Duchess de Guermantes on her.

Height 13.0 cm

MORE ON PAGE 11

From past collections and now we're talking mainly 1920 – 1930, Cartier was famous for its prism clocks and its mystery clocks. But also in the seventies, several Mystery models were available in the collection and some prism clocks in the eighties. These very mysterious clocks with hands that



looked like they were floating in the air, were created by Maurice Couët for Cartier, from 1920 onwards.

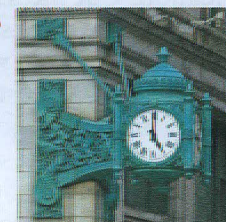
Cartier's impressive private collection of Mystery clocks, that La Maison had bought back from collectors and at auctions, were presented at large, at the above mentioned exposition 'Time Art'.

Wait. Don't Tell Me!

What clock is this? Where is its twin located?



A gravimetric pendulum by Charles Poirer as a combination of gravity, time is about 1.6 met, the calculation $v = \sqrt{g \cdot L}$



This pendulum has two sets of pivots, so that it can be hung either end up. The pivots are adjusted such that the period of the pendulum is the same in either orientation. How are such pendulums used? Why is it cylindrical?

Astronomical regulators are often set up with minutes shown at the outer edge of the main dial and hours shown on a separate circle. Is this high grade English clock an astronomical regulator? This clock has a zinc/steel compensated pendulum. What is the weakness of this scheme?

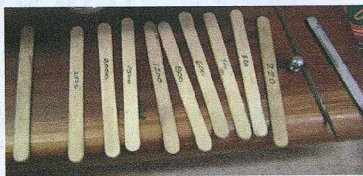


ARE YOUR PIVOTS POLISHED?

Earl Watrous

Under 40X magnification, you may find that your polished pivots are not as smooth as you wanted. I have tried burnishing tools, as well as graded stones, both unsuccessfully. Under 40X magnification, my pivots polished with stones and burnishers appear rough. I tried resurfacing the stones and burnishers as instructed in a video by Archie Perkins, without any significant improvement. The following method works for me, producing a consistent, smooth finish.

TOOLS: Make simple pivot polishing tools out of popsicle sticks and sand paper. Glue popsicle sticks to the back side of sand paper of varying grit (220, 320, 400, 600, 800, 1200, 1500, 2000, and 2500). While the glue is drying, mark the naked side of the popsicle sticks with the grit number for identification. Cut the sand paper around the popsicle sticks (popsicle sticks can be cupped or warped - use the flat ones). One last pivot polishing tool to make is a popsicle stick covered with leather, suede side up...a small leather strop. Contact cement works well to adhere leather to wood. Charge the leather strop with a metal cutting/polishing compound. I use Flexcut Slipstrop Compound, found at many woodworking tool stores.



PROCESS: Lay out the pivot polishers by ascending grit. Put a few drops of oil on each pivot polishing stick. Do not oil the leather strop. Start with a burnisher to dress the pivot shoulders. Always use oil in the pivot polishing process, including burnishing tool and graded stones. I start with 220 grit if the pivot is in horrible shape and 600 grit if the pivot looks good. Continue with successively higher grit polishing sticks, one touch at a time and in order of successively higher grits. Clean the oil off of the pivot and finish the job with the leather strop stick.

RESULTS: Consistency and personal satisfaction.

OK, Now Tell Me.

The corner clock is on the Marshall Field, now Macy's, Building in Chicago. It was installed in 1897. It is shown in this early 20th century post-card. The second clock is on the other end of the building. If you have information on the mechanism and manufacturer, please share.



If one knows the force of gravity, a pendulum can be used to measure time. If one knows time, the period of the pendulum can be used to determine gravity. Pendulums of the type shown were used to measure gravity at different points on the earth. Time was determined from a precision clock calibrated by the passage of stars. The period of swing of the pendulum then measured the force of gravity at that location. The cylindrical shape facilitated calculations of drag due to the atmosphere. This particular pendulum is one of several designed by Charles Peirce in the 1870s. Peirce's life has been described as brilliant but troubled. For a pendulum set up as described, the effective length of the pendulum is the distance between the pivots. With a lot of caveats, it can also be used as a standard for length.

No, the hour circles on astronomical regulators show 24 hours. The hour circle on this clock shows 12 hours. Also astronomical regulators measure sidereal time, but one could not know that from the picture. The clock shown would properly be referred to as a regulator, but not an astronomical one. (This fact was pointed out to your editor by a rather indignant Viennese clockmaker.) The problems with zinc/steel compensation are that it is less stable over the long term than say brass/steel and more subject to corrosion.



CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

Mart: 10:30AM
 Chapter: 12:00PM
 Board: after the Chapter Meeting

Future Meeting Dates

October 9, 2016
 December 11, 2016
 February 12, 2017

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.

