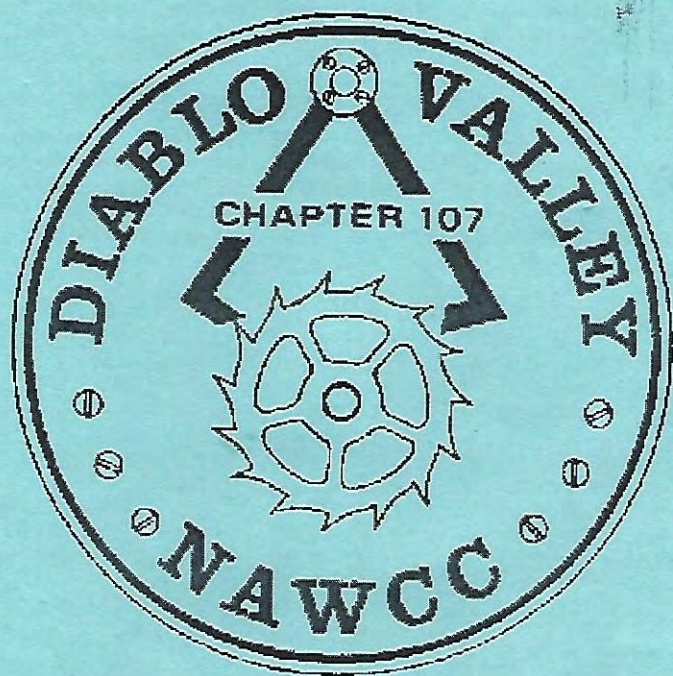


# BULLETIN



August 2019  
Volume 244

## DIABLO VALLEY

### Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors  
[net.nawcc.org/chapter107](http://net.nawcc.org/chapter107)  
 email account [chapter107nawcc@gmail.com](mailto:chapter107nawcc@gmail.com)

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

#### 2019 OFFICERS

President	Price Russ	925-937-9231	<a href="mailto:gpruss@pacbell.net">gpruss@pacbell.net</a>
Vice Pres.	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	<a href="mailto:lindatowers@hotmail.com">lindatowers@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ross Smith	925-820-2180	<a href="mailto:mainuse@msn.com">mainuse@msn.com</a>
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	<a href="mailto:dottiewalt@astound.net">dottiewalt@astound.net</a>
Past Pres.	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	<a href="mailto:lindatowers@hotmail.com">lindatowers@hotmail.com</a>

#### DIRECTORS

2019	Vince Angell	916-952-4961	<a href="mailto:phylathome@hotmail.com">phylathome@hotmail.com</a>
2019	Leonard Boone	925-946-1832	<a href="mailto:lenboone@gmail.com">lenboone@gmail.com</a>
2019-2020	Bob Thomas	209-815-3292	<a href="mailto:btclock@comcast.net">btclock@comcast.net</a>
2019-2020	Stan Janczura	925-937-5139	<a href="mailto:sjanczura@aol.com">sjanczura@aol.com</a>
2019-2020	John Koepke	510-236-2197	<a href="mailto:jskoepke@comcast.net">jskoepke@comcast.net</a>

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor	Tina Thomas	209-481-3930	<a href="mailto:ch107bulletin@comcast.net">ch107bulletin@comcast.net</a>
Library	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	<a href="mailto:jng3@aol.com">jng3@aol.com</a>
Mart	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	<a href="mailto:jng3@aol.com">jng3@aol.com</a>
Membership	John Koepke	510-236-2197	<a href="mailto:jskoepke@comcast.net">jskoepke@comcast.net</a>
Nominating	OPEN		
Photo	John Koepke	510-236-2197	<a href="mailto:jskoepke@comcast.net">jskoepke@comcast.net</a>
Program	Price Russ	925-937-9231	<a href="mailto:gpruss@pacbell.net">gpruss@pacbell.net</a>
Refreshment	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	<a href="mailto:lindatowers@hotmail.com">lindatowers@hotmail.com</a>
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	<a href="mailto:dottiewalt@astound.net">dottiewalt@astound.net</a>
Video Library	Price Russ	925-937-9231	<a href="mailto:gpruss@pacbell.net">gpruss@pacbell.net</a>
Web Master	Price Russ	925-937-9231	<a href="mailto:gpruss@pacbell.net">gpruss@pacbell.net</a>

#### 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](mailto:ch107bulletin@comcast.net).

## Meeting Notice

August 11, 2019

Mart 10:30 Meeting Noon

Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd, Danville

August Speaker: Bob Simon

**Topic:** Marine Master Clocks

As ships move across the ocean, it is necessary to adjust their clocks to their local time. This way when they arrive at their destination, the passengers are already adjusted to the local time zone. Marine Master Clocks were used to set slave clocks throughout passenger ships as they crossed the ocean.



**Show and Tell**  
 Bring an item that reminds you of Ron Bechler and/or something related to keeping time at sea.

## President's Message

This is not a message I expected to write and not an easy one. As you know our President Ron Bechler passed away a few weeks ago. In accordance with the by-laws, I have assumed the Presidency for the rest of the year. Linda Towers has been approved by the Board of Directors to serve as Vice President. Ron's seat on the board will remain empty for now.

Over the years, Ron sold me a large number of tools, some of which I have used. Some I bought just because I like them. Perhaps more importantly, he freely shared his knowledge which was extensive to say the least. I think it is fair to describe him as one of the three most influential individuals I have known through Chapter 107. I'm sure many chapter members feel as I do that I will always miss him.

Thanks go to Richard and Claire Hatch for hosting the picnic. They did a great job. Unfortunately attendance was down. We need to discuss why that was and consider going back to August.

We are fortunate to have Bob Simon as our speaker this month. Bob always gives excellent presentations. For a preview of his talk, take a look at his article in the April 2008 issue of the NAWCC Bulletin. If you don't have the Bulletin, as a member you can read it on the NAWCC web site. For the October meeting, our speaker will be Ernie Lopez, one of the founders of the West Coast Clock and Watch Museum. Among other things, Ernie was a dear friend of Ron's. I'm sure he will share some thoughts about Ron. A reception for Ernie will follow that meeting.

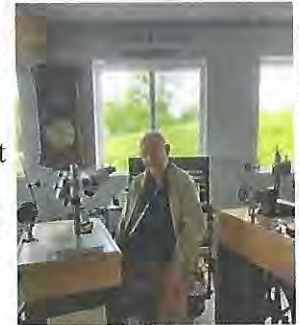
It is not too early to start thinking about officers for next year. Assuming the other officers continue to serve, we will at least need a President. I am willing to serve as Vice President with responsibility for arranging programs. I will also continue as videographer, video librarian, web master, and Bulletin contributor. I will not serve as President or be solely responsible for persuading candidates to run. Sorry to both start and end this message with "downers", but it is imperative for the future of the chapter that members step forward and actively participate.

Price Russ

## In Memoriam

Ron Bechler passed away unexpectedly on June 15 while on his way back from attending the annual Timekeepers Meeting in Kidron, Ohio and visiting the Bechler School of Watchmaking in Jasper, NY. The Kidron meeting, one of Ron's favorite activities, is primarily a meeting of Amish watchmakers. The Bechler School of Watchmaking grew out of Ron's support for the Amish group. The photo shows Ron at a bench at the school. This must have been a very proud moment for him.

Ron was not one to hold back on saying exactly what was on his mind whether about people or events. He seemed to enjoy the appearance of being a curmudgeon. Underneath his gruffness was a heart of gold. When he saw a need, he would always quietly and generously contribute his time, knowledge, and resources. The best example of this is the school which he generously supported. Locally he actively participated in chapter activities and provided guidance to aspiring horologists. He was also a major backer of the West Coast Clock and Watch Museum. Oh, how he wanted it to be in San Jose.



Ron was also a consummate business man looking to buy and sell horological items at a fair price, particularly tools, especially Levin, and anything related to Chelsea clocks. In May he was able to purchase a large lot of pristine horological tools and some extraordinary watches. Boy, was he a happy camper. As a seller, his mart tables were many and always full of goodies. It is fair to say that he was the major supplier of tools to members of all the area NAWCC chapters. There was always something he described as "you need this".

Our deepest sympathy goes to Ron's family. He was truly one of a kind and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Ron was not a religious man, but we can hope that wherever, he is he has every tool that ever appeared in a Levin catalog and one of each clock made by Chelsea.

### Shop Hints

A toaster oven can make a valuable addition to your workshop. Although typically their temperature scales only go to 450°F, they can actually go high enough to blue steel parts and to melt silver solder (98% tin, 3% silver). These tasks can be done in your kitchen oven, but a dedicated toaster oven lets one do them in the shop, saves energy, and doesn't lead to conflicts with the master chef.

In connection with soldering, spring clips are handy for holding the parts to be joined. The procedure is to tin the parts on a hot plate, hold them together with a spring clamp, coat the areas you don't want to be soldered with anti-flux, and place in the toaster oven set high enough to melt the solder. The photo shows a suspension spring for the Shortt clock ready to go into the oven. Ten minutes of heating was enough to complete the job. (The toothpicks were for alignment and removed before heating.)



Toaster ovens can be picked up garage sales for a few dollars.

Thanks go to Richard Hatch for suggesting these ideas.

Wanted short notes on ideas/techniques that you have found helpful. If you have ideas/techniques that you have found helpful please let me know. You can email your ideas to [ch107bulletin@comcast.net](mailto:ch107bulletin@comcast.net).

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### Shortt Report

Recently I found several smart phone apps that deliver sidereal time for the clock's longitude. One actually displays a map showing the location of the phone, so the time really is for the local position. Until then I was measuring the rate with the Microset by the period of the pendulum. To my surprise, the time displayed on the dials was erratic and always fast. After a lot of head scratching, it occurred to me that the count wheel in the slave might occasionally be advanced by two teeth instead of one. Inspection showed that given the large amplitude of the pendulum's swing, while not actually observed, it might be possible for the gathering pallet to catch two teeth. The amplitude was reduced by reducing the impulse being given to the pendulum. This appears to have solved the problem, but additional testing is underway. The way I reduced the impulse was quick and easy but perhaps not optimal. If impulse is the problem, a different and more robust solution may be called for.

Price Russ



### Recent Earthquakes

The 7.1 earthquake on July 5<sup>th</sup> was a real clock stopper. The following chapter members reported stoppages at about 8:25 PM:

- Dorian Clair - Vienna
- Nile Godfrey - 9 tall cases
- Wayne English - Seth Thomas #2
- Vince Angell - Howard, Chelsea, and Atkins
- Price Russ - Shortt master and regulator

The Danville quake a few days later affected the Microset trace for Price's regulator but did not stop it. The Shortt master stopped that day but at a different time - curious.

June 2019



## Fyvie Castle



In Aberdeen, Scotland, some of us had the opportunity to tour the Fyvie Castle.

This Castle has connections to Robert the Bruce and royal connections back to 1211. There were several

clocks for me to enjoy as we walked through the Castle with our very informative guide. But, the one that caught my eye was a tall clock {approx. 1880} made by William Johnson, 50 Strand, London. This clock has 3 dials: hour, minute and second...AND, it was working and was "spot-on" with the correct time. Fortunately, the guide shared my enthusiasm and opened the door of the clock to show me the label and mercury filled pendulum. Everything in this Castle was lovely, but this clock was my favorite.



Thank you *Celeste Q. Graham* for the article

My son saw this clock while on vacation in Southern Oregon. While it is unusual in design the face says Camelot and Quartz, indicating relatively recent work. The numbers, however, are new to me. Any ideas?

Leonard Boone



Please email your ideas to email [ch107bulletin@comcast.net](mailto:ch107bulletin@comcast.net)

### *Some interesting articles to check out on line*

Geologists use radioactive clock to document longest earthquake record May 1, 2017 By Kelly April Tyrrell  
<https://news.wisc.edu/geologists-use-radioactive-clock-to-document-longest-earthquake-record/>

Viewing earthquake effects in pendulum clocks  
<https://www.bmumford.com/mset/tech/quake/index.html>

*Antique lighthouse clock with porcelain dial, made by Simon Willard and Son, circa 1823-25.*



This rare antique clock form, which is typically referred to as a Lighthouse clock, was created by the renowned clockmaker Simon Willard and patented in 1819 as an "Alarum Timepiece". These sophisticated, high-style clocks were among the first American shelf clocks to offer the conveniences of an alarm. Simon Willard [born: Grafton Massachusetts April 3, 1753, died: Boston, Massachusetts August 30, 1848] was a highly prolific and innovative clockmaker for over sixty-five years and is responsible for a number of important refinements and patents which have forever impacted the form and function of American clocks. This example, which is signed on the porcelain dial "Simon Willard & Son's / Patent", was produced some time between 1823-26, during the partnership with his son Simon Willard Junior [1785-1874]. Antique lighthouse clocks are among the rarest clocks produced by Simon Willard, it is believed that less than one hundred examples survive. A Simon Willard antique lighthouse clock in an elegant mahogany case with these fine ormolu mounts and hexagonal base is considered among the most highly prized forms by sophisticated collectors.



is

Fake or Dummy Winding Holes in 30 hour Grandfather Clocks

When grandfather clocks first came into being, they had movements which would last for varying lengths of time, eg. Thirty hours, Eight days, One month, Three months etc. As the clocks with longer duration were very expensive, most people settled for a Thirty hour or Eight day clock. Eight day clocks were still more expensive and though many were sold, people who were slightly less affluent had to settle for the Thirty hour. This type of clock was wound by pulling up a rope or chain and there were no winding holes in the face. The Eight day clock which had two holes in the face was wound with a key, one hole for the movement and one hole for the strike. There was still a class war in those days and the eight day men would look down on the thirty hour men. In order to help with this, thirty hour makers began to produce clocks with the two holes in the dial and arbours which were not connected to anything behind. Thus at a glance, a thirty hour clock looked like an eight day clock and this helped a great deal with thirty hour sales. Experienced people were not fooled but some of the less knowledgeable were and this made the thirty hour men more comfortable with their purchase.



The first timepiece on the moon (aliens excepted) was a 1969 Omega Speedmaster worn by Buzz Aldrin (Neil Armstrong left his watch onboard the lander). NASA selected this watch after a battery of punishing tests. (And I am sure you can soon buy a replica of some sort).



Ross Smith

## 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 13, 2019  
 December 8, 2019

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 2019 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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday even months (except April)
Sacramento #71	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday odd months
San Francisco #5	James Monroe Elementary 3750 Monterey Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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



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