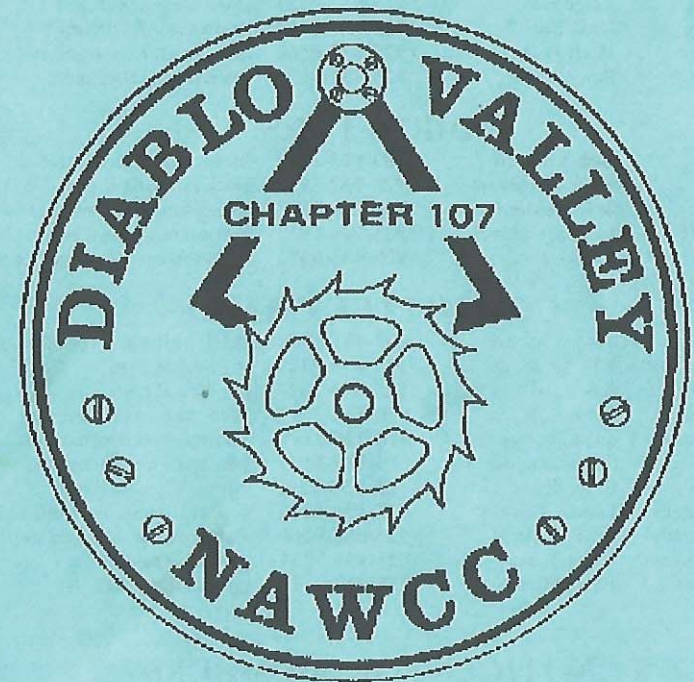


BULLETIN



June 2020
Volume 249

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors
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Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

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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.

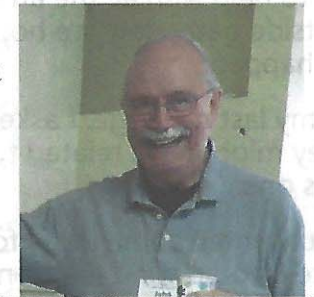
Meeting Notice

Sorry
 Chapter 107 members
 our June meeting
 has been cancelled.

NWACC Fellow Named

John Koepke recently received the "Fellow Award" from the NAWCC. John is the first chapter member to earn this distinction in many years. Congratulations John!

Under normal circumstances, the award would have been presented at a meeting, but it seems better to go ahead with the announcement.



The citation reads as follows:

John has been a continuous member of the NAWCC since 1971, and has held memberships in Chapters 5, 71, 107, 168, 173 and 178.

During his membership years, John has held Chapter Executive positions as follows: President Chapter 5 Dr. Barclay Stevens Memorial from 2018 to Present, Chapter 107 Diablo Valley as President 2014 to 2015 and Director 2016 to Present. Chapter 173 Horological Tools as President 2018 to Present and Vice President 2013 to 2017.

John has published several articles in Chapter 173 Tool Enthusiasts Round Up and given lectures at several Chapter meetings on horological tools, walnut parlor clocks and time service and clocks at the Lick Observatory.

John was Co-Chairman for the Silver Dollar Regional in 2015 and has been the Regional Co-Ordinator Manager for the Convention Committee from 2018 to Present responsible for scheduling Regional Meetings.

President's Message

Dear Chapter 107 Members,

I'm sorry that once again we must cancel our upcoming June meeting because of COVID-19. The Contra Costa Health Department issued an Updated Shelter in Place Order on 5/18/2020. This Order continues to restrict most activity, travel, and governmental and business functions to essential needs.

With that in mind, we hope that the situation will change by August and that we will be able to hold our Annual Picnic. We would like to ask our members if anyone would like to volunteer to hold the picnic in their backyard? *As of now, we have no location.* Please contact me, Price Russ or John Koepke if you're interested in volunteering. We will be happy to help with all the arrangements. Because this will be an outside gathering, we hope that restrictions will allow this to happen.

In my last message, I asked members to contribute any tips they might have related to clocks. Stan Janczura sent me this one:

You wanted some ideas for the bulletin. When I was at Hospice I would wind the donated clocks to see if they would run. A number of times winding Hermle movements the click spring would not keep the click against the ratchet wheel causing the key to unwind in my hand hitting my fingers which was painful. After a couple of times I started using a let down key to wind old clocks to determine if repair was required. If the clickspring wouldn't hold, it would only cause the let down key to spin in my gloved hand. During repair the clickspring is bent with pliers to renew tension on the click. All the parts mentioned are pictured in Timesavers.

Thanks, Stan, for this helpful tip. Thanks also for volunteering at the Hospice Thrift Store and restoring old clocks! If anyone else has a tip they'd like to contribute, please send it to me.

Continued on page 5

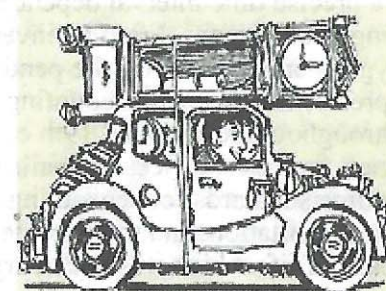
President's Message

Continued from page 4

Since I haven't been able to attend my weekly Thursday evening clock workshop at Nile's clock shop in Livermore, I've been spending most of my Shelter In Place time working in my backyard replanting succulents, growing some vegetables and doing various garden chores. Gardening is another one of the passions that I have loved since childhood, just like clocks. I'm much more proficient at growing plants than I am at figuring out clocks but I got a much earlier start. I hope that you all have been able to find creative ways to fill your time at home.

Again, I hope that we will be able to meet in August and enjoy our annual picnic. Please, if you are able, volunteer your outdoor setting for this gathering.

Helen



Shop Hints

Getting pivots into the proper holes in clock plates is often a challenge. I learned about the spring tool shown below through an email discussion group. The "S" shaped end makes it really easy to either pull or push a pivot. It is one of quite a few spring tools available from Micro-Tools. This one sells for \$4.51 plus shipping. As their name suggests, they sell a wide variety of small tools and other goodies.

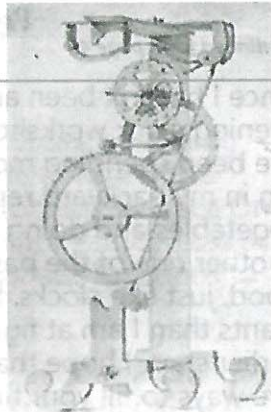


Price Russ

Pendulum clock

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Pendulum clock conceived by Galileo Galilei around 1637. The earliest known pendulum clock design, it was never completed.



A **pendulum clock** is a clock that uses a pendulum, a swinging weight, as its timekeeping element. The advantage of a pendulum for timekeeping is that it is a harmonic oscillator: it swings back and forth in a precise time interval dependent on its length, and resists swinging at other rates. From its invention in 1656 by Christiaan Huygens until the 1930s, the pendulum clock was the world's most precise timekeeper, accounting for its widespread use.^{[1][2]} Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries pendulum clocks in homes, factories, offices and railroad stations served as primary time standards for scheduling daily life, work shifts, and public transportation, and their greater accuracy allowed the faster pace of life which was necessary for the Industrial Revolution. The home pendulum clock was replaced by cheaper synchronous electric clocks in the 1930s and '40s, and pendulum clocks are now kept mostly for their decorative and antique value.

Pendulum clocks must be stationary to operate; any motion or accelerations will affect the motion of the pendulum, causing inaccuracies, so other mechanisms must be used in portable timepieces.



Vienna regulator style pendulum wall clock

Here is a fun little quiz to see what you know or maybe just learn something new. Provided by Nile Godfrey.

1. What year was the first pendulum clock made?
2. Anton Ketterer first constructed a cuckoo clock in what year?

Answers on page 13

The History of the Cuckoo Clock

It seems that disagreements about when an invention was invented and who did the inventing, tend to bubble up here and there, and so it is with the cuckoo clock.

The popular and traditional belief, which has lasted through the centuries, is that the cuckoo clock was invented in 1740 by Franz Anton Ketterer, a master clock maker from the small village of Schoenwald in the heart of the Black Forest of Germany. It is said that he was the one who devised a clever mechanical system using two small bellows and wooden whistles, much like the pipe organ, to reproduce the two-note call of the cuckoo.

Also noted in Karl Kochman's book, "Black Forest Clock Maker and the Cuckoo Clock" on page 4 and 5 that historian Jaech stated: "Franz Anton Ketterer from Schoenwald constructed and produced in the beginning of the year 1730 a clock, decorated with an automated bird calling the hour with the cuckoo call."

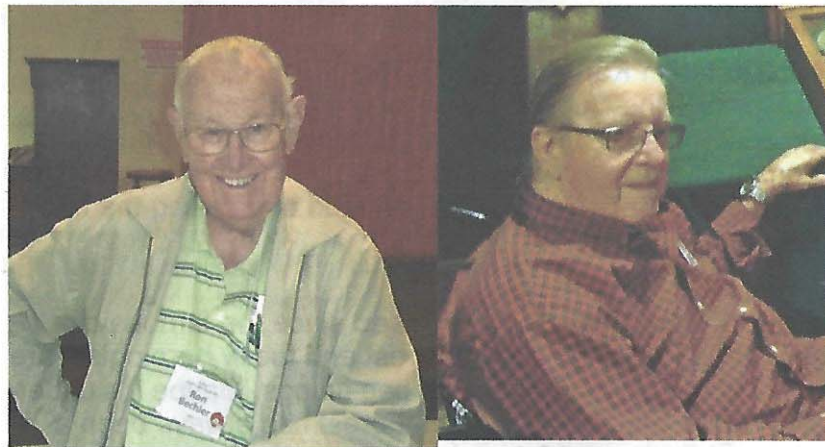
Hundreds of years have passed since the famous clock first appeared in the Black Forest and today horologists are still in disagreement about its beginnings. Maybe it's understandable, because the Black Forest has always been a place of myths and fairy tales.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

*WE THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS,
WE TALK ABOUT YOU STILL,
YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN FORGOTTEN,
AND YOU NEVER WILL.
WE HOLD YOU CLOSE WITHIN OUR HEARTS
AND THERE YOU WILL REMAIN,
TO WALK AND GUIDE US THROUGH OUR LIVES,
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.*

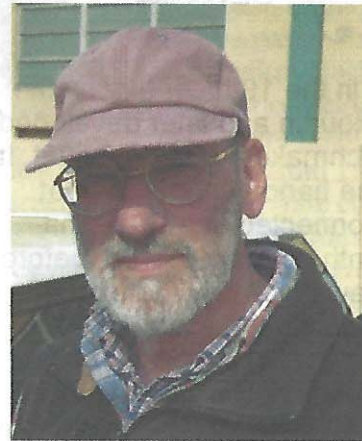


Nancy Andrum



Ron Bechler

Phil Hart



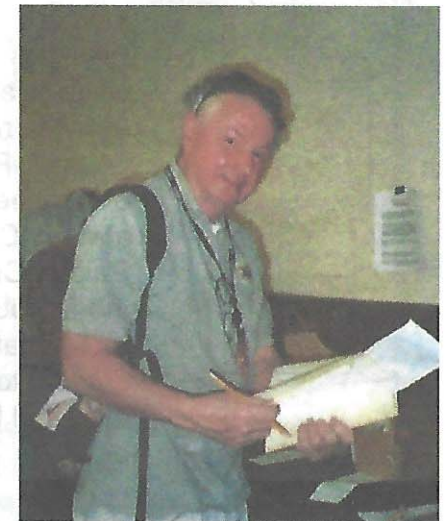
Seth Finkelstein



Bert Bradley



Dale Gardner



Mike Kookan

<http://m.skinnerinc.com/m/auctions/2890M/lots/103>

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.

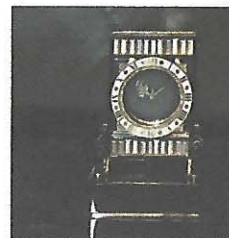
Sold to Count Greffulhe, husband to the famous Countess Greffulhe, "the most beautiful woman in Europe" according to Marcel Proust, who partly modeled his character of the Duchess

de Guermantes on her.

Height 13.0 cm

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10



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'.

Watches I Have Known

Barry J. Marcus and Julie Campisi

Barry Marcus started repairing watches in 1945 and is still working at the bench. This delightful book, written 10 years ago when he was only 76, is a collection of his recollections relating to watches that have come across his bench. It was compiled with the aid of his daughter Julie. What makes the book interesting is not the watches *per se* but the life-events of the owners and his interactions with his customers. Two things that he learned from his watchmaker uncle were that problems are often something stupid and that it was important to understand how the customer used the watch.

I am writing this on Memorial Day which is particularly appropriate because many of his stories involved veterans and the watches they or their relatives had worn in combat.

After reading the book, I was able to contact Julie and through her Barry. That's how I know he is still repairing watches. It would be great fun to sit with them over coffee. If you read the book you will understand, why that would be a special treat.

Price Russ

Shortt Report

John Koepke and I completed the draft of the document about the history of the clock, the condition when found, restoration, and operation. Thanks go to Bob Simon and D. H. Mayeron for reading it and providing comments. If any other members would like to read it, I can give you access to the version stored in the cloud. (It is too large to email.)

Once we are past the covid-19 situation, it will be time to install it at Lick.

Price Russ



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?

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.

Editors Choice

Black Forest Clockmaker and the Cuckoo Clock

by [Karl Kochmann](#) (Author)

Limited edition reprint [1000 copies] of the history and detailed description of the Black Forest Cuckoo Clock, revised and edited to include new archive material & color photos.



I Found this site very interesting. The Abby Clock Clinic
<http://www.abbeyclock.com/antiqueclockrepair.html>.
 They offer several interesting free PDF articles.

Simon Willard and His Clocks Paperback January 5, 2005

by John Ware Willard (Author)

The inventor who established America's first clock factory and developed clock-making techniques that are still in use more than 200 years later, Willard was a master among craftsmen. This unique biography, written by his great-grandson, not only chronicles the inventor's life, it explains his methods and catalogs his creations.



Our Little Quiz
 And the answers are
 1: 1656 2: 1730

CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

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

Future Meeting Dates

August 09, 2020
 October 11, 2020
 December 13, 2020

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 2020 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)
Sacramento #71	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 th Sunday odd months
San Francisco #5	Monroe Elementary School 3750 Monterey 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.



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