

Chapter 89 NAWCC
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2019

Date and Location Our third meeting of 2019 was held on Saturday, May 11th, at the Brunswick United Masonic Lodge #8. Starting at 10 a.m. there was a meeting of the Street Clock Project Committee, and then members were arriving for the social hour from 11 to noon. There were several tables of Mart items but no Silent Auction. Around noon the lunch was ready, and everyone lined up for a variety of deli sandwiches, chips, drinks, and cookies.

Call to Order, Attendees President Tim VonReyn called the business meeting to order at 12:40, and asked for self-introductions around the room. There were 27 members and guests present; guests this time included Mary French, Marilyn Karl, and Sue Cormier. Tim and Bruce said that only 17 registrations were received ahead of time, and this makes the food planning more difficult. Please remember to send in your registration slips from the announcement, or at least contact Bruce before the posted deadline.

Secretary's Report The minutes from the March meeting were accepted as printed and mailed/e-mailed.

Treasurer's Report Bruce reported that our current balance before the meeting was \$ 6025.24; there are some meeting expenses for today and some additional registration income to be posted.

Announcements Tim VonReyn thanked Tim Martel for handling the lunch planning and purchasing; everyone was very appreciative.

Old Business Tim gave a brief update on the Portland Street Clock project. The clock's owners are just getting started on the fundraising, and have said that they would give us an advance amount to help cover expenses in the repairs and parts needed for the movement and dials. We are still working on cleaning up the parts. There was some discussion on whether Chapter 89 should make a donation toward the restoration cost. The general feeling was that the Chapter is donating all our time and labor as a service project, so this should be a good public promotion for the group.

New Business

1. Tim presented a thank-you certificate to Jinny Mead for her informative presentation on Clock Faces at the March meeting.
2. We discussed plans for the Summer Picnic meeting, for which we need a new location this summer. Some ideas put forward included Ferry Beach State Park in Saco, the Saco Ecology School, or Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth. Chuck and Mary French and Phil and Mary Carthage offered to host the picnic at either of their homes in Durham or Belfast, respectively. The Executive Council will work out the details and keep everyone informed of the plans as it gets closer.
3. Tim VonReyn presented the Ern Grover Award to Mark Beever for his service to the Chapter, and his name is added to a plate on the award plaque.
[If I may add a note here, I would like to say that this was a very nice surprise, and I deeply appreciate the honor. It's nice to have my name on Ern's Plaque, because it's all his fault that I got involved in the first place! A long time ago I brought a little Waterbury movement to his shop in Sanford because I thought it needed a bushing. He said yes, I was right, but he showed me all around his workshop and

explained how I could do it myself. He invited me to a Chapter meeting at the New Meadows Inn in Bath, and I was hooked!

50:50 Drawing The first prize in the raffle drawing was won by Mark VanLunen. The second drawing went to Tony Accardi. Then, a third drawing was made for a donated picture puzzle called "A Matter of Time", and this was won by Mark VanLunen.

Upcoming Events

1. Harry Hepburn reminded everyone of the Schmitt/Horan live auction coming up next weekend (May 18th + 19th). He also mentioned this year's Ward Francillon Time Symposium to be held this fall in Germany.
2. Sam Ogilvie recommended that we consider attending a big Mart to be held in June in Kidron, Ohio. He had heard about this event put on by an Amish group with which Noah Yoder is connected. He will try to get this posted on the web site.
3. John Paynter put in a plug for attending the NAWCC National Convention planned for the end of June in Springfield, Mass.
4. Kathi Smith mentioned the NAWCC Regional to be held in Syracuse, New York, this July. The Cog-Counters Chapter 194 has their meeting and picnic the day before the regional. This meeting will include the auction of the last of Snowden Taylor's collection.
5. Mark Beever had an invitation from one of the officers in Chapter 8 (New England) to share some table space at the National Convention so that we could hand out membership information and answer questions. They were looking for volunteers to help staff the table during the Mart in Springfield.

Show and Tell

1. Dave Smith brought a large old ship's clock with a silvered dial. He had obtained this clock in rough shape several years ago while they were on a camping trip, and using what little materials they had on hand, he had cleaned the dial with toothpaste and treated the movement with WD-40. Despite gasps from the audience, Dave had just two words to say about this clock: Still Running!
2. Dave also showed a nice Birge, Gilbert, & Co. Empire shelf clock with a strap brass movement. This one had a separate outboard alarm with small weight, and the replacement alarm disc was made at home.
3. Mark VanLunen had several interesting auction finds. One was an old brass and silvered dial engraved with the name Bernhard Pol, a department store in Bangor. Mark estimated this dated from the 1850's.
4. He also brought an early Newman's Watchman's Clock and 8-Day Dustproof Timekeeper. The hinged wood box is still in very good condition.
5. A Chauncey Jerome steeple clock with brass fusee movement had an unusual dial with small cut holes through which showed the month, day, and date in red letters/numbers. The dial was labelled Seem's Dial, patented 1858.
6. Mark also showed a German R/A wall regulator that had a music box mounted in the bottom of the case. This appeared to be original, with a trip wire extending down from the movement.
7. Paul Cormier had picked up at a Florida Regional a unique brass clock movement, mounted to a wooden base stand, with a set of meter dials connected under the movement. Above the movement was a curved brass dial plate with a brass pointer hand. The unit was labelled "Cochran's V-Notch Meter – reading X 250 = lbs" and Paul guessed that it may have been used to record the output of a power plant, water pump station, etc.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Presentations: Several Chapter members showed and explained some of their favorite shop tools and techniques.

- A. Sam Ogilvie brought his **mainspring stretcher**, a long wooden device with a hook and bolt at one end to secure and extend a mainspring for cleaning and lubrication.
Sam had trouble with commercial test stands not being sturdy enough, so he made a **heavy base for a steel rod test stand** by making an adapter for the rod in the middle hole of a barbell weight.
He showed his **small work stand** for platform escapements and hairspring work – this is a PVC reducer / adapter, with a flat cover on top of the small end.
Also for hairspring adjustments, Sam made a **hairspring bending tool** by grinding the tip of the loop off a large sewing needle and mounting the needle in a wooden handle.
Lastly, Sam demonstrated a safe way to remove the retaining wire loop from a new mainspring. He uses a short section of large diameter PVC pipe with a cap on one end and a small access notch cut into the wall of the other end. By holding the retaining wire in the jaws of heavy side-cutters through the notch, and covering the mainspring with the PVC pipe, he can snip the wire and the sudden **mainspring release is contained within the protective cover**.
- B. Bruce DeLugo brought some of his favorite tools. He has a very **bright LED lamp** with a flexible tube and a magnetic base, and finds the maneuverability a big help.
A useful device for repair of escape arbor pivot holes on kitchen clocks is a **brass stepped escape brace** with holes drilled at each height. This is slipped under the escape cock on the front plate to stabilize it for bushing and broaching.
Bruce has found much help in assembling movements, especially making adjustments to the trains, by using a **commercial plate spreader** instead of trying to hold the plates steady with one hand while manipulating the arbors with the other.
Another helpful device Bruce showed is the **verge adjuster tool**, which can make fine adjustments to strip pallet assemblies without having to use a hammer, stake, +/or anvil.
- C. Mark Beever demonstrated a method for easily **measuring mainspring length** without stretching the spring straight. A 10' to 12' section of fine cord such as surveyor's string is passed through a 3" section of 1/16" brass tubing and a loop tied in one end. The string loop is hooked to the outer end of the mainspring, on a flat surface, and holding the brass tube vertically, pass it around and around the loops of spring until it reaches the middle. Then the length of the string used up can be measured on the floor or with a tape to find the spring length.
He also showed some **wooden bench blocks** with multiple drilled holes, useful for organizing pin-vises, broaches, drills and taps, etc.
An old **seatboard with home-made wooden pulleys** added to each end makes a handy test stand for early weight-driven shelf clock movements – the pulleys do not need to be above the movement as they are arranged in the actual cases.
- D. Kirk Rau brought a spare test stand that he had used in his shop. This one had a safety feature – he glued strips of sandpaper to the top edges to help prevent movements and seatboards from slipping off.



Mark VanLunen's Chauncey Boardman clock with Seem's Calendar Dial