

Tic Talk Times



FEBRUARY 2017
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2016

MARINE CHRONOMETERS

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Martyn at 8:00pm. He thanked his wife for providing the refreshments. The minutes for the December 2, 2016 meeting held at Dave Weisbart's Victorian home in Long Beach were approved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 190 is having a one day Mart February 19th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park (10 W. Harbor Blvd, Ventura) from 9:00am to 3pm.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Paul Martyn told us about the use of a jewelers saw in making clock hands. All you need is a drill (if piercing is involved) a saw frame, different size saw blades and a bench pin to rest the material to be fabricated. The key elements to be followed include:

When preparing your design, transfer the image on paper to the metal (or bone if cuckoo clock hands are to be prepared). Light weight white paper works well and it can be secured to your metal piece with general purpose white glue or a glue stick. Keep the saw blade in tension so that it cuts straight and does not twist. Even with care these blades are known to break in use so have several available when you start your project. A loose blade will

snag and twist and will not cut straight. The general rule in selecting blade size is to have three teeth engage the metal when sawing. For 20 gage sheet metal a 2/0 blade should work well. Too many teeth and you will have trouble steering your cuts. Remember you are cutting on the down stroke.

When cutting corners or a curve, turn the piece on the bench pin, keep the saw blade in a consistent vertical position. If you are cutting a sharp corner, have your two cut lines converge to a point. If a 90 degree angle is needed it is also possible to define your cut with a needle file after your sawing is complete. In any event do not try to get a sharp corner by turning the saw frame.

If you are fabricating a pierced piece, drill a pilot hole and detach the upper portion of the blade from the frame and then reattach with the proper tension. By letting the piece to be cut rest on the bottom of the frame, the metal should not pull on the blade when you are tightening it.

Make clean cuts when sawing and do not rush the process. You will break blades, but smooth, consistent motions are the best means of insuring a positive outcome.

MARINE CHRONOMETERS

A video presentation produced by Chapter 56 was presented on the history of the marine chronometer and its importance in western history.

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This Month

EARLY AMERICAN EXPERIMENTAL CLOCKS

This month, join us as discuss those experimental clocks made in early America. We will be viewing an intriguing program called, *A History of Early American Experimental Clocks*, focusing on the sometimes bizarre early American clocks. The video is hosted by Dorothy Glenk from the Diablo Valley Chapter 107 in Pleasant Hill, California. Dorothy talks about the history and origin for many interesting clocks. Arthur Rekedal acts as moderator and discusses the clocks with Dorothy as she presents each of them. This fascinating video was filmed by Richard Calicura who's camera follows the descriptions of each clocks and their respective movements.

See you at the meeting!

TIME TRIVIA

More elaborate and impressive mechanized water clocks were developed between 100 B.C. and 500 A.D. by the Greeks and Romans. The added complexity was aimed at making the flow more constant by regulating the pressure and providing fancier displays. Some water clocks rang bells and gongs, others opened doors and windows to show little figures of people, moved pointers, dials, and astrological models of the universe.

...Precursor to the cuckoo clock? -Ed.

JANUARY MINUTES — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The marine chronometer was developed in order to have a timekeeper of great accuracy that would function at sea to aid in navigation. By knowing the time difference from a fixed point longitude (the north/south lines form the poles) can be calculated. This concept was known to the scientific community but the technical means of accurately determining time was unavailable, so in 1714 the British established a Longitude Act to initiate a competition to see if an accurate time piece could be developed.

The Longitude Act offered a series of awards that increased with greater accuracy. The largest of the awards was issued to John Harrison who is largely credited with inventing the marine chronometer. Harrison was a largely self-educated carpenter and clockmaker who developed several time keepers that initially used a grasshopper escapement; these variations were known as H1, H2 and H3. Although impressive for the time, these timekeepers did not satisfy the need for accurately establishing longitude. By 1761 Harrison had developed H4 which was a full departure from his initial clocks in that this timepiece was essentially a sea watch using an unusual vertical escapement and diamond pallets.

The modern chronometer evolved further with the development of detent escapement using a temperature-compensated balance. Other advancements followed with spring detent escapements and improved balance springs.

With all marine chronometers proper calibration is essential. Part of this process used to involve setting time against a set time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. This process subsequently resulted in the adoption of Greenwich Mean Time.

This radio signals eventually replaced marine chronometers in navigation, but during WWII security demands resulted in a resurgence in their use. The Hamilton Watch Company produced marine chronometers during the war to meet this need. G.P.S. has now largely replaced time radio signals.

SHOW AND TELL

Larry Squires presented several anniversary clocks that used acrylic orbs that replaced their torsion pendulums. While being visually unique, Larry indicted that time adjustment provided a challenge.

UPCOMING MARTS

FEBRUARY 2017

[2017 Florida Mid-Winter Regional](#)

When: 2/10/2017 - 2/11/2017

The Lakeland Center

701 West Lime St

Lakeland, FL 33815

MARCH 2017

[2017 Arizona Sunshine Regional](#)

When: 3/24/2107 - 3/25/2017

Fountain Hills Community Center

13001 N La Montana

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

[2017 River Cities Regional](#)

When: 3/31/2017 - 4/1/2017

Lenexa Community Center

13420 Oak St

Lenexa, KS 66215

APRIL 2017

[2017 Southern Ohio Regional](#)

When: 4/6/2017 - 4/8/2017

Roberts Centre

123 Gano Rd

Wilmington, OH 45177

[2017 Memphis King Cotton Regional](#)

When: 4/29/2016

Bartlett Station Municipal Center

5868 Stage Rd

Bartlett, TN 38134

MAY 2017

[2017 North Coast Regional](#)

When: 5/19/2017 - 5/20/2017

Lakeland Community College

7700 Clocktower Dr

Kirtland, OH 44094



National Association of
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

Full details for all upcoming marts: <http://net.nawcc.org/NAWCC/Events/Events/NAWCC/Events/Events.aspx>

Visit us at www.nawcc69.org

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 69
C/O CORA LEE LINKENHOKER
7186 CALICO CTR.
CORONA, CA 92881

The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.



OUR NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Program
DVD

**EARLY
AMERICAN
EXPERIMENTAL
CLOCKS**

Time: 7:00 — Doors Open
8:00 — General Meeting

Admission \$4.00 — General
\$6.00 — Couples

Location: Acacia Grove Masonic Lodge
11270 Acacia Parkway
(in the Civic Center)
Garden Grove, CA

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

No Beginner's Corner this month

Show & Tell:

Any horological item beginning with the letter "Q" or "R", or an "Experimental" Clock—early American, or otherwise

Board Meeting:

No Board Meeting this month

