

Bytown Times

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Sunday, May 25, 2008
 Course begins at 11:00 AM
 Meeting begins at 1:30 PM

WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park
 Community Centre
 25 Esquimalt Ave., Nepean

MEETING AGENDA:

- JP will give a talk about his collection of character watches
- Bring your tackiest clock for our tacky clock contest
- Please bring your treasures for Show and Tell
- Mart Tables

Microset Timer Demo

During the March 2008 meeting, Chapter President Wally Clemens gave a short workshop and talk on the Microset Watch and Clock timer.



This modern, and unique, timer was developed by Bryan Mumford, an Electrical Engineer in California. Among its many features is its ability to

plot a watch or clock's characteristics on a computer monitor, where it can be visually studied for errors. This visual

representation, made in the form of a graph, can be used to spot faults. A graph that shows many peaks and valleys indicates the clock is rather unstable.

The device collects this info through various sensors. For example, the optical sensor relies on a small

Cont'd on pg 3...

May Workshop: Dealing With Loop End Mainsprings

The workshop planned for the May meeting involves the transfer of the riveted loop end of a mainspring to another spring or location on the same spring. This is required when a mainspring must be shortened or when replacing a spring with one that does not have a loop end.

Workshop activities will include the following:

- 1- Grind and remove the old rivet using a Dremel tool.
- 2- Soften (anneal) the mainspring end with a torch.
- 3- Mark the new hole location.
- 4- Drill the hole using a drill press.
- 5- Shape the hole and the new end of the spring with files.
- 6- Those who bring a lathe will be able to make a replacement rivet.
- 7- Rivet

Scott Whiteside has built a special jig to safely hold a mainspring during the drilling operation. Participants will have the opportunity to try it out.

Interested participants should bring a used mainspring and their own tools such as files, hammer, small punch, saw, torch, Dremel tool with grinding bits, safety glasses, leather protective gloves. The workshop will begin at 11:00 AM

Information provided by Dan Hudon

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Microset Timer Demo</i>	1 & 3
<i>Loop End Workshop</i>	1
<i>Industry News: Hermle</i>	2
<i>Training Update</i>	2
<i>Picnic Reminder</i>	2
<i>Toronto Invitational</i>	3
<i>Chapter 92 Aucion</i>	3
<i>Member Profile</i>	4
<i>March Meeting Highlights</i>	5
<i>Club Info & Contacts</i>	6
<i>Secretary's Corner</i>	6
<i>The President's Desk</i>	6

Industry News - Hermle

In 2007, Hermle announced it would cease to manufacture clock movements at its U.S. facility in Virginia. All Hermle movements will now be made at the Hermle Black Forest plant in Germany.

Hermle has seen its client base shrink over the years. Fewer clock movements are being sold worldwide. Hermle lost a major client when the Sligh manufacturing company of Holland Michigan sold its clockmaking division in 2007. Hermle used to sell a lot of movements to the Howard Miller Clock Company, another major client. However, Howard Miller now

owns the Kieninger Clock Company and no longer uses Hermle movements in its cases. It was reported that Hermle plants in both Germany and the United States were operating below capacity. Hermle needed to consolidate their operations for economic reasons.

The Hermle facility in Virginia will become a central distribution centre for movements manufactured in Germany. Movements will be sold through authorized distributors. Persons in the clockmaking/repair business will be able to obtain movements through these distributors. Hermle will not sell to the public and it is unclear as to how individuals outside the 'trade' will obtain movements.

The price of Hermle movements will vary with the value of the Euro. One American horological supplier has already removed the price of Hermle movements from its newest catalogue and customers must call for the current selling price.

One thing is certain: with the high value of the Euro, we can expect to pay higher prices for clock movements that originate in Europe.

Article provided by Dan Hudon

Chapter III 2008 Annual Picnic

The summer is fast approaching, which means it's time to start thinking about our annual picnic! Come join us for a fun-filled afternoon, including a yummy BBQ, mart tables, door prizes, and sunshine! Date, time, and place for the event will be decided shortly... we'll keep you posted! It was great fun last year... just look how happy it made our host, Maynard Dokken (below)!

Update on Training Activities

Introduction to Clock Repair

If there is interest, this course will be run again from early September through early October, 2008. Classes are planned to be held from 9-3 on Saturdays. Dates will be firmed up once the room has been booked. Please contact Dan Hudon for more details.

Course info provided by: Dan Hudon



Microset Timer Demo (cont'd)

Cont'd from pg 1...

beam of light which, when the beam is broken by the movement of a hand, etc., sends a signal to the device, to be tracked and input into the graph.

Article Information provided in part by Wally Clemens



Chapter 92 Auction

On June 1, 9:00 AM, Chapter 92 will hold their annual Auction & Pot-Luck event at the Lambeth Legion in London, Ontario. Last year over 75 items were auctioned! There is no fee to participate. All items for the auction must be pre-registered. For more details, please contact Wally or Erin (contact info is on page 6).

Toronto Invitational Meeting

Below: Gary Fox giving his talk about CHI

Below: Nick Turnbull the meeting MC (left), and Hugh Sinclair (right)



Above & to the left: Seth Thomas display

At the beginning of May, the annual Toronto Invitational Meeting was held in Etobicoke.

Ottawa Chapter 111 member Gary Fox was one of the guest speakers. Gary's talk expanded on an update he provided at the May 2003 Toronto Invitational meeting regarding his research on the Canadian Horological Institute. He was able to show previously undiscovered master-piece watches, class pictures, technical drawings, bench work exercises, etc.

The second speaker was Hugh Sinclair, who spoke about a Howard regulator clock that was used in an 1880's expedition to determine the distance between the earth and the sun by measuring the transit of Ve-

nus. There were 8 such clocks purchased by the US government and sent to various spots around the world. After the expedition, the clocks were given to the US Naval Observatory and used as the master timekeepers. Hugh bought the clock from a US collector but it was missing its case and some key parts. The collector told Hugh that all the other clocks were still with the Observatory. Hugh and Ben Orszulak (Ben is a machinist, and made the missing metal parts for the clock, including an intricate cast-mounting bracket for the movement) went to the Observatory and took all the measurements needed to make the part and the new case. Interestingly, the Observatory keeps one of the original clocks on display and the rest are in storage. The cases and clocks are serial numbered and it turned out

that the case on the display clock matched Hugh's clock! So, why was Hugh's clock available when all the others were in storage at the Observatory? Apparently the clock was given to a university in California after the clocks were retired from timekeeping service. The university used it for a number of years and later sold it as excess material.

The Toronto Invitational Meeting also included a wonderful display of Seth Thomas clocks and regulators. There were also 60 tables in the Mart, and most were filled with lots of goodies - clocks, watches, tools, books, and parts. The real bargain - a 50x power electronic microscope - great for fine watch repair.

Article information provided by Gary Fox

Meet Our Members!

Introducing: Wally Clemens

My mother's family has been in the Ottawa Area since leaving Ireland in the 1830's. My father's father came to Canada from England in 1904, and other than a return to fight in the First World War, called Ottawa home since then. I was born in Ottawa on April 6th, 1950. I spent my formative years living in the Sandyhill neighbourhood, in downtown Ottawa. In 1962, my family and I moved to a new home in the far west end of Ottawa. I attended Woodroffe High School until grade 12, then completed grade 13 at Ottawa Technical High School. From there, I attended Algonquin College for a diploma in Electronics. Currently, my wife, Adelle, (who was also born and raised in Ottawa) and I live next to the Ottawa River, in West Carlton.



My work life began by repairing radios and TVs in various shops around Ottawa. In the mid 70's I was hired by Northern Radio, a manufacturer of front-end teletype electronics. While at Northern Radio, I worked mainly on equipment used by the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railroads. After the company failed in the late 70's, I was hired indirectly by the American Air Force to maintain the electronic

equipment on the Distant Early Warning Line (DEW Line) across the Canadian Arctic. I believe it was not due to my talent, but rather that no one else would accept the job, that I rose to be the trouble shooter for the eastern half of the Arctic. The job saw me constantly traveling back and forth across the eastern half of the Canadian Arctic, in problematic aircraft, with many landings that can only be described as exciting. Often I would be the only passenger sitting on board, surrounded by supplies, trying to keep warm in a plane with little to no heat. Once, it was so cold that one of the landing wheels refused to turn on it's bearing, and instead the tire spun off the rim. To get back in the air, we had to use a number of levers to change the damaged wheel, as it was too cold for the hydraulics jack to work. I loved the equipment, the work, the Arctic, the people... and the Russians never came.

After 5 years, I returned to Ottawa and took a position as a Satellite Controller at Telesat Canada. I was fortunate to be involved in all but 2 of their very first satellite launches. After some 10 years in the Control Centre, I left to train other Controllers all around the world. This involved both traveling to their tracking sites, and bringing them here to spend time training at Telesat.

When I returned to Ottawa, I followed in my father's footsteps, and volunteered at the Royal Canadian Legion's Montgomery Branch on Kent Street. At present I am running their next Poppy Campaign, which brings in about \$70,000 each year.

My hobbies are music and mechanical things. I play the harmon-

ica, and am still trying to pick up the violin (oh, if I could only be as good as Jack Benny...). My mechanical ability comes to me honestly, as my mother's father was a watchmaker and my father's father taught auto mechanics at the Ottawa Technical High School.

I was never discouraged from taking things apart, and



from a very early age was given broken alarm clocks and watches to dismantle. Pocket watches were my first love, and I still can't resist buying one at flea markets. I am not really a collector, however, if I have a collection of anything it would be tools. At present, I do some repair work and am trying to build a clock, though I am stuck on making the gears as I'm missing gear cutters.



March 2008 Meeting: Pictures



Our last Chapter meeting was held Sunday March 30, 2008. President Wally Clemens gave a workshop and a talk on his Microset watch and clock timer. Members shared show and tell items, and mart tables were also set up.



During the March meeting, Ernest B. spoke with the chapter about his long search for the Astronomical clock (pictured above) in his mother's hometown in Germany. The first Astronomical clock was built in the 13th century, to calculate when Easter would occur. Ernest shared pictures and discussed his quest.

March Meeting Show & Tell Highlights

Ruth and Toivo Oks, in the picture below, brought an interesting find to our last meeting: a test for students of the Canadian Jewellers Institute, located in Toronto. The test, dated 1955, belonged to Ruth's father. They are not sure if he just wrote the test, or if he contributed to the development of the test. Students were given 16.5 hours to write the test. Ruth and Toivo have offered to make copies of the test, if anyone is interested.



At the March meeting, Georges Royer showed the club a Pequegnat Citadel mantle clock (pictured to the left and above). The clock has a special base that, once attached to the wall, allows the clock to become a wall clock. The clock simply slides onto the base. The base appears like an extension of the case itself.



Club Information

This club acts as a meeting place for antique clock and watch enthusiasts. Members are interested in a wide array of topics: some collect, some do research, some do repairs.

Formal club meetings take place five times each year, on the fourth Sunday of every second month, with a break in the summer. Meetings are held in January, March, May, September, and November. Doors open at 1:00 PM.

Club members also enjoy two annual social events: a Wine and Cheese party each November, and a Picnic BBQ each July.

Courses on clock and watch repair are held throughout the year.

The Bytown Times is published five times each year.

Annual Dues for club membership is \$16. Club members should also have memberships to the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC). NAWCC Dues are U.S. \$55.

Club Officers & Contacts

President: Wally Clemens
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Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0
(613) 832-3085

Vice President: Patrick Bigras

Secretary: Erin Fox
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Treasurer: Bill Pullen

Auditor: Georges Royer

Librarian: Wally Clemens

Bytown Times Editor: Erin Fox

Immediate Past President: Maynard Dokken

Program & Social Director: Tim Bryans

Education & Workshop Chairman: Dan Hudon



Secretary's Corner

Since we will not have a meeting this summer, this will be the last issue until September 2008. Keep your eyes peeled for your invitation to the Chapter Picnic, which should arrive in June, once the details for the event have been settled.

I would like to thank Wally Clemens, Dan Hudon, Gary Fox, Charlie Beddoe, and Maynard Dokken for their contributions to this issue, in the form of excellent pictures, and valuable information and articles. Once again, I would like to extend a special thanks to Peter Kushnir for presenting the chapter with the idea for the 'Meet the Members' portion of the newsletter, which will now be a regular feature in the Times.

As usual, I would like to welcome members to submit their own articles for the newsletter. Topics can be anything: a review of your collection with pictures, a summary of some research you've gathered, 'how-to' or instructional information, museums and other horological sites you've visited, etc. Articles and pictures can be emailed to me at: erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

Please don't forget to visit our website as well:

www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca

Notes from the President's Desk

A few things will be scheduled for this upcoming meeting. We will have a vote on whether we will allow a members' links section on our webpage. The National web site provides this "value added" feature along with a disclaimer. Second, we are desperately in need of a membership chairperson and assistant. The main function of this chair will be to handle membership renewals at our meetings. Please give this some thought, and remember that sometimes we have to give back to the club. Third, the National is studying how they can better serve and protect members of chapters. They have a draft NAWCC Chapter Proposal, which can be read at www.nawcc.org. I will have a few copies for those who do not have internet. Come September, each Chapter will be asked to "sign on" to this updated charter.

Bring your show and tell items, and for something new, lets have a tacky clock contest. The winner will get their picture, with their clock in the next Bytown. See you there.