

Bytown Times

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Sunday, September 27, 2009

Meeting begins at 1:30 PM

WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park
Community Centre

25 Esquimault Ave., Ottawa

MEETING AGENDA:

- Servicing a Platform Escapement (DVD presentation)
- Show and Tell

FRANK PRUD'HOMME'S HOROLOGICAL FINDS IN PORTUGAL AND CUBA

The clocks from Portugal were found in pousadas (the government-run hotels which were formerly convents or monasteries) and were not in running condition. The works were imported from the USA or England but the cases were made by Portuguese craftsmen. There are also three clocks which were French made and these were in an antique shop (in the 400 Euro range). While in Lisbon, we visited the Gulbenkian Museum (a spectacular museum) and saw many



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One of the Portuguese clocks is pictured, to the right.

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HOW TO BUILD AN HOURGLASS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The invention of the hourglass can be traced back to Alexandria in the middle of the third century, where they were sometimes carried around as people today carry watches. Relied-upon for many centuries as an important time-piece, these days they often only appear as icons on our computer desktops and inexpensive timers for board games. But, if you use a little creativity, you can create your own beautiful novelty show-piece that has a practical use! Here's how...

1. Thoroughly wash and dry both bottles.
2. Using the nail and hammer, punch a hole through the cork (top to bottom). Work the nail back and forth through the cork in order to make a hole approximately 2mm in diameter.

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Things You'll Need:

- 2 narrow-necked clear glass bottles of identical sizes and shapes
- Corks (2-3)
- A hammer
- A large nail (approx. 2mm diameter)
- Crafter's sand, as fine as possible
- Funnel
- Large mixing bowl
- Stopwatch
- China glue

FRANK PRUD'HOMME'S CLOCKS, CONTINUED...

elaborate French clocks in the Rococo style dating from the time of Louis XV.

The clocks from Cuba were used as decoration in the Sol Palmeras resort in Varadero (March 2009). They are all American made. The large group are all Ansonia and only the one on the right hand bottom was actually working. Presumably they were left when the Americans left Cuba in the 50's.

Text and Pictures provided by Frank Prud'Homme



*Additional Portuguese clocks pictured above.
Cuban clocks pictured below.*

UPDATE ON TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Internet-based Training Opportunity

A new learning opportunity is available to anyone interested in the clock repair field. It is called ClockClass.com and is hosted by David LaBounty Certified Master Clockmaker and Fellow of the British Horological Institute. Some members may recognize the name as Mr. LaBounty publishes articles in various horological magazines. The American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute refers to Mr. LaBounty as a training partner. There is already a long list of topics available to the public and they are posted on the web site.

ClockClass.com offers the following choices:

- 1- Take a class at a cost of \$ 35.00 US
- 2- Request private lessons
- 3- Suggest a topic
- 4- Purchase a DVD from a list of titles
- 5- Watch David LaBounty work for free

Class topics and schedules are posted on the web site. Interested persons must register ahead of time.

Fall 2009 Introduction to Clock Repair Course

The Fall 2009 edition of the Introduction to Clock Repair Course is currently underway. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Hudon.

Training info provided by Dan Hudon



HOURGLASS, CONTINUED...

3. Test the hole you've made. Spoon some sand onto the cork (you can buy the sand at a craft store). If the hole is too small for the sand to run out of easily, make it slightly larger. If the sand runs out instantly, you've made the hole too large and will need to start over with a new cork. Ideally, the sand should trickle out at a consistent, but not too quick, pace.

4. Use the funnel to fill a bottle with sand. Fit the cork into the neck of the bottle.

5. Set your stopwatch for the amount of time you want to have measured by your new sand timer.

6. Measure the flow of sand from the filled bottle. Holding the bottle in one hand and the set timer in the other, tip the bottle upside-down over the mixing bowl at the same instant that you start the stopwatch. Watch the stopwatch and stop pouring the instant the watch's countdown is finished. This will fill the mixing bowl with the precise amount of sand needed for your timer. If you don't have enough sand, you will have to adjust the amount of time your timer can measure, or do this project with larger bottles (though most beverage bottles should be big enough to measure several minutes if your holes aren't too big).

7. Empty any remaining sand from the bottle and set aside.

8. Pour all the sand from the mixing bowl back into the bottle and fit the cork into the neck once again, leaving half the cork sticking out of the top of the bottle.

9. Evenly cover the lips of both bottles with china glue. Fit the second bottle over the first, the cork fitting snugly into both bottle necks, holding the two bottles together so the glass lips touch. Allow the glue to set.

10. Tip your new sand timer upside-down to start timing.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have the email addresses for many members, but only 30 have signed up for receiving the Bytown Times by email.

Please email Erin at erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com if you would like to be added to this list of email recipients.

(Note: the emailed version is in PDF format, is less than 1GB in size, and comes in full colour.)

SCIENCE & TECH MUSEUM CLOCK COLLECTION TOUR

The proposed visit to the Science & Technical Museum for our September 2009 meeting is postponed to either Sunday the 18th or 25th of October. Wally will ask members for a preferred date at our next meeting.

FUTURE 2009 / 2010 MEETING DATES

November 22, 2009	May 16, 2010
January 24, 2010	September 26, 2010
March 28, 2010	November 28, 2010

CHAPTER 111 ANNUAL PICNIC



We owe a very large thank you to the many folks who made this summer's picnic a wonderful event. Maynard and Teresa for their cottage, not to mention the work they do before and after we leave. Then there is Peter and Judy Graham, who not only purchase the food, but also set up the BBQs, cook the food, serve the food and clean up afterwards. Then there are all those who bring homemade specialties for us all to enjoy. Our thank you could go on for pages naming all those who make the event a summer highlight. Thank You Again.

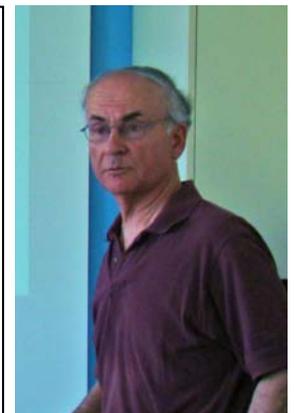


MAY 2009 MEETING



Left: Maynard Dokken visited the Smithsonian. Though he was unable to view the American clocks he wished to see, he was able to attain a copy of a complete list of the clock holdings as the museum. He has kindly provided a copy for the Chapter 111 library.

Right: Allan Symons gave a presentation about Canadian clocks, showing a variety of pictures of clocks made by both Canadian clockmakers and U.S. companies that made clocks in Canada. Allan also discussed the history of the Canada Clock Museum.



NAWCC CHAPTER CHARTER UPDATE

Ottawa Valley Watch and Clock Club, NAWCC Chapter 111 President, Wally Clemens, has provided the following update on the status of the NAWCC Chapter Charter, and how it relates to our Chapter:

About a month or so ago, I received a phone call from Steven Humphery, the Executive Director of the NAWCC. Steven was very pleasant and our conversation centered on our club's condition that our bylaws take precedent of the National's (NAWCC) bylaws. I explained to him that our biggest concern was that of non-NAWCC members belonging to our club. I continued that many of these non-NAWCC members have and continue to be very active in our group. I also spoke about older members who had been very active in both the NAWCC and our chapter but with age and illness have dropped their membership in the NAWCC, but continue to attend our meeting for a social occasion. Lastly, I explained that at our meetings we do highlight the benefits of belonging to the NAWCC, display NAWCC membership forms, and reminded Steve that by these introductions we have had members join the NAWCC.

Steve and I spoke very openly and he suggested a Meritorious category for those older members mentioned above. (I read into this that Steven and the NAWCC are not so objectionable to non-members as they are to our conditional statement that "Our Bylaws over power all of theirs").

Steve assured me that the intent of this new Chapter Charter was not to increase the National's power over a chapter, but simply to try and prevent what happened to the Internet Chapter, where Chapter money and assets were taken from chapter members by a few.

At the next meeting, we will be asking the membership to reconsider dropping our New Chapter Charter condition that our Bylaws override the National Bylaws.

EIGHTH ANNUAL EASTERN CANADIAN HOROLOGICAL SHOW & MART OF ANTIQUE CLOCKS & WATCHES

This event will include trade and exhibit tables, demonstrations, a silent auction, and prizes.

When: Sunday October 4th, 2009
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Ukrainian Youth Centre,
3270 Beaubien East,
Montreal, Quebec

Entrance Fee: \$5

For more information, call:
Peter at 514-376-7045

LIST OF LOCAL SUPPLY SHOPS

- Metal Supermarkets: 2900 Old Sheffield Rd., Unit 1, Ottawa, 613-747-7511, www.metalsupermarkets.com
[All metal, sheets, rod plates, in small amounts]
- Dowd Supply Co.: 36 Rosemount Ave., Ottawa, 613-236-9493, www.dowdsupply.com
[Jeweler's Tools, and Equipment (Grobet USA)]
- Lee Valley Tools: 900 Morrison Drive, Ottawa, 613-596-9202, www.leevalley.com
[Tools and round Brass Stock]
- Fastenal: 6 Bexley Place, Unit 102, Ottawa, 613-288-1470, www.fastenal.com
[Some Metal]
- Busy Bee Tools: 2251 Gladwin Cres., Ottawa, 613-526-4696, www.busybeetools.com
- Legere Industrial Supplies Ltd.: 1120 Morrison Drive, Ottawa, 613-829-8010, www.legereindustrial.com
[Machine mechanical supplies]
- Ottawa Fastener Supply Ltd.: 175 Robertson Road, Ottawa (Bells Corners), 613-828-4117, www.ottawafastenersupply.com
[All metric and standard fasteners, Tools]
- Dynamic Hobbies: 21 Concourse Gate, Unit 6, Ottawa, 613-225-9634, www.dynamichobbies.com
[small brass rods and small diameter piano wire]

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. \$65.

Club Officers & Contacts

President & Librarian: Wally Clemens
Box 311, 4970 Opeongo Road, RR#3
Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0
(613) 832-3085

Vice President: TBD

Auditor: Georges Royer

Membership Chair: Veronica West

Secretary &

Bytown Times Writer & Editor: Erin Fox

Treasurer &

Show and Display Coordinator: Grant Perry

Immediate Past President: Maynard Dokken

Program & Social Director: Tim Bryans

Education & Workshop Chairman: Dan Hudon



Secretary's Corner

I would like to thank Wally Clemens, Ben Roberts, Charles Beddoe, Dan Hudon, and Frank Prud'Homme for their contributions to this issue.

Creating, editing, publishing and mailing the Bytown Times is a lengthy task. Though I enjoy the task (and appreciate the membership's support and compliments), it would be almost impossible for me to complete the newsletter without Ben's and Charlie's pictures, Dan's and Wally's contributions of information, and additional article information and pics provided by members such as Frank. I thank you very much for all your help.

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

Dan Hudon will not be holding a workshop before the upcoming meeting, but will be providing the main lecture topic. David J. LaBounty, Certified Master Clockmaker and Fellow of the British Horological Institute will show us his method of "Servicing a Platform Escapement" via projector and DVD. David LaBounty provides online clock classes in partnership with the American Watch & Clock Institute. For more information on other topics which may be shown in the future please check out the website:

www.clockclass.com

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Don't forget to bring in your new-found treasures accumulated over the summer for show and tell. See you there.