

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 27 members were in attendance.

Annual dues is currently \$75 a year. This is an increase of \$15 dollars a year to \$75 and was discussed with the majority of the increase will go to the Torch International organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt our representative to the International organization.

John Dillon announced speakers for next years talks.
Torch Club Program, 2023-2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept 13	<u>Steve Turns</u>	The Classical Guitar - History & Construction
Oct 11	<u>Dean Snow</u>	The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program
Nov 8	<u>Roger Geiger</u>	Historical Perspective on American Higher Education
Dec 13	<u>Bill Arden</u>	The Star We Live With - Studying the Sun
Jan 10	<u>Ron Smith</u>	The NCAA, Football Concussions and a Multimillion Dollar Lawsuit
Feb 14	<u>Jean Lee</u>	The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon
Mar 13	<u>Gordon DeJong</u>	Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends
Apr 10	<u>Heather Shoenberger</u>	Artificial intelligence in the Public Space
May 8	<u>Steve Smith</u>	Traditional Farming in Latin America
June 12	<u>Ming Tien</u>	Wolf vs Dog - Genetics and Biochemistry

This year's officers include

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

THE CLASSICAL GUITAR: Brief History and Construction

The presentation briefly reviews the historical development of the classical (nylon-stringed) guitar. Starting with the musical bow (130,000 years ago), the development follows through the Roman Cithara (origin the of word guitar), the Gittern (13th Century), the Vihuela (15th Century), the Renaissance guitar (1450-1650), the gaudy Baroque guitar (1650-1750), the Romantic guitar (1750-1850) to the modern Classical guitar (1850-present). The second part of the presentation shows, step-by-step, how a modern artisanal Classical guitar is constructed. Details include, among others, the construction of the neck, bending of the sides, installing the rosette in the top panels, bracing the soundboard, and assembling the components. The presentation concludes with Torch Club member Wayne Osgood playing one of the presenter's guitars. Several guitars are available for inspection.

Steve is Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering, retiring after 35 years of service at Penn State. He received his BS from Penn State, an MS from Wayne State University while working at GM Research Labs, and subsequently his PhD from University of Wisconsin- Madison. His research interests were combustion, combustion-generated air pollution, and engineering education. He is the author of three textbooks. His *An Introduction to Combustion* is used around the world and is available in Korean, Chinese, and Portuguese editions. He has received several Penn State teaching awards. Steve has always enjoyed listening to and making music. As an adult, he resurrected his interest in trumpet playing by taking lessons from Penn State professor Rob Howard and performing in a wide assortment of musical groups. More recently he has abandoned the trumpet for the guitar, and fulfills his need to be always making something by building guitars. Steve and his wife Joan have been married for 53 years and have two sons, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the State College Ramada Inn at 5:00. Member Dean Snow will present The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program

Torch Club Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month (except July and August) with a social at 5 PM, dinner at 6 PM and the program at 7 PM. All meetings are hybrid, in person at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 450 S Atherton Street and on Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3P85hmb>). The program begins at 6:45 PM.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted
Charles W Maxin, secretary