



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY REGULATOR



CHAPTER 75 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC.

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The Howard Banta The Alarm Clock Chapter



Greetings from Germany¹

by Uwe H. Peter

Here is a new story from "Alarm clock collecting in Germany". On the last work day of last year I got a phone call on my cellphone. A gentleman phoned and told me he saw my alarm clock poster at the antique clock market in April 2006 in Eisenbach, a little town in the Black Forest. On the poster, I listed the alarm clock models for my collection that I'm still searching for.

A few weeks had passed when he realized the poster with my number was in his jacket pocket. He told me he had two very hard to find old German alarm clocks for my collection as listed on the poster. When I asked, 'Which models do you have?' he answered 'One alarm clock with a plane on the top, and one alarm clock with five bells around the clock'. At first I thought he was joking. The clock with the plane on top is a Mauthe alarm - very difficult to find. I've only seen two in my years of collecting. One incomplete model is on display in the Industrial Museum in the Black Forest and the other belongs to a collector friend of mine in The Black Forest. His piece is missing one of the two pilots on top and the piece itself is not in very good condition. I asked the fellow on the phone to give me a description of the clocks. 'Is a pilot on the top?' I asked. 'Not only one pilot, there are two pilots' he answered.

I just couldn't believe it. I've been searching for this alarm clock for years without success.

He said he would sell me the two pieces for my collection. For

a high price of course. We agreed to meet at the next market in the Black Forest in April 2007 to close the deal. But that meant I had to wait four months.

I just couldn't sleep that night. I think every collector has had this feeling.

The next day I phoned the seller again and we agreed that I would drive to meet him. I drove alone the next morning the 528 km

(about 330 miles) to Freiburg in the Black Forest and bought the two alarms. I was very, very happy. The entire drive took over 12 hours and was difficult with my small car. But I was happy and very proud of the new pieces for my collection. Late that night I sent pictures by e-Mail to all my alarm clock friends in Germany and told them about my purchase. My wife said it was OK. but suggested its for the best that I don't go on too much about this great find where I work. People that aren't are collectors just don't understand the thrill of a find like this.

The second piece is also an old German alarm clock. It too is very difficult to find. A five bell alarm clock. I believe this model is by Thomas Haller, Sch

The alarm clock with the plane on the top is from the company "Mauthe". The initials FMS stand for the company name Friedrich Mauthe Schwenningen, also located in the Black Forest region. The company closed over thirty years ago. They made very nice alarm clocks, for example 'The Bobby Figure Alarm Clock'. The trademark is an Eagle with the initials FMS at the Eagle's feet.

I have a large collection of old Mauthe Alarm clocks and plan on making a DVD of them for the private Mauthe-Museum in Villingen-Schwenningen.

Its best I don't tell the price for the two alarm clocks...we all have to have some secrets. .

Greetings from Germany to the USA and to all alarm clock collectors



ALARM CLOCK PETER

If interested in joining The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter, please contact Secretary Michael Wilson at at: mike@oldephotog.com or write him at: 15508 East Chaparral Way, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268. If you are interested in receiving a Complimentary copy of the Newsletter, please contact President Vince Angell by email at phylathome@hotmail.com.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Ken McWilliams

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. That is who we are. The name is simple and seems to be self explanatory, but I would venture to say that if you asked fifty people what membership means to them, you would get fifty different answers.

To me, it isn't just the accumulation of clocks and watches but rather the accumulation of knowledge. This is a never ending quest and one that I get much satisfaction from.

The true enjoyment of horology is not derived from possessing or coveting our fellow collectors items, but by understanding what he has. Anyone with a large enough pocketbook can possess them all, but it only costs us time to learn and understand them. And knowledge is something that can never be taken away from us.

I have a client that owns an original 1692 Thomas Tompion table clock. We spent over an hour talking about it. (I mostly listened) He had many documents and references detailing the circumstances and who it was made for.

He had obviously spent a great deal of time researching the clock and its maker to accumulate so much information. It was also obvious that having and sharing this knowledge was a great source of enjoyment to him. (I suppose owning a clock worth close to a million dollars can be enjoyable too)

My point is, learning about the history, origins, workings, styles, makers etc. etc. can be very fascinating and rewarding. We should all be both student and teacher. *That*, is what we are, or should be, all about.

This brings me to something that has been bothering me. Last month as I was presenting the program "The evolution and workings of quartz watches" I looked around and saw the same small group that always attends the meetings and programs after the mart. This represents about 20% of the members that come to the mart. The other 80% leave before the meeting.

I can't help but wonder why? Are we presenting boring stuff? Is the mart too long? Would it help if we had an optional lunch? Tell me how we can make the meetings something that you would enjoy being a part of. I'm serious, I really want to know how we can get you to participate.

This should be the place that we come together as a club and exchange ideas and information. One of my favorite things is Show-n-Tell. This is where members bring in one of their treasures and share it with the group. I always learn something.

See you all at the September meeting,

Ken



**October meeting: Round Table Discussion:
"Unique Timepieces"**
Bring in your unique timepieces. "Unique" is defined as unique to YOU!

Visit to a clock: The Turret Clock

By Chris McKay

Stands the church clock at ten to three?

And is there honey still for tea?

So wrote Rupert Brooke of the church clock at Granchester which remained stopped at that time for many years. Perhaps this poem is about as close as most people get to a church clock. Yet located behind clock dials, aloft in dark church towers, or in garrets brooding over long-quiet stable blocks are some very interesting mechanisms. Known as turret clocks, or sometimes tower clocks, these clocks are usually seen only by those who wind them, but they really can be most fascinating. So come along, let's take an imaginary journey up a church tower and see what it's really like...

Up the Tower

We enter a low door at the bottom of the tower and there in the cramped entrance a gloomy stone spiral staircase winds its way upwards out of our sight. The steps are worn and uneven, narrow slit windows at every turn let in much-needed light, and it's rather cool and a bit dusty. An odd cobweb or two adds to the feeling that not many people pass this way.

The Ringing Chamber

The first door we meet opens into a room where the bell-ringers perform. Hanging down from the ceiling are eight bell-ropes, and a notice clearly declares:

DANGER
DO NOT TOUCH
THE ROPES

Above us we can now just make out the muffled sound of the clock ticking, a steady deep clunk every second, like the sound of a very old grandfather clock. Swinging through a slot in the ceiling we can just see the bottom of the clock pendulum. It is the size of a dinner plate, fairly thick, and held on to the pendulum rod by one of the biggest nuts we have ever seen.

In the Clock room

Moving on up the spiral staircase from the ringing room we come to the clock room. Lit by a single rather feeble bulb we see against a wall what looks like a wooden garden shed. The tick is now much louder and emanates from inside. Opening the wooden clock case we now see the clock itself, an iron frame filled with gear wheels, at the back is the top of the pendulum swinging from side to side. The clock mechanism is properly known as a movement. More about how it works later, but what we can see of the movement seems to indicate that it is very old.

Right in the front of the movement is clock dial, a bit unusual since the figures run backwards - and it only has one hand. A rod runs from the clock straight upwards to a set of gears on the ceiling above, from there another rod runs across the room to the back of the dial. A thin wire extends from the clock case to the ceiling, going right up to the belfry where it operates the hammer to strike the hours. Two steel ropes also come out of the clock case, pass upwards, over pulleys, and

then dive off into the dark corners of the clock room.

Looking closer into these corners reveals that the ropes have huge cylindrical weights hanging from them, each are about three feet tall, and a foot in diameter. These provide the driving power for the clock and for the striking as well. Below each weight is a hole in the floor, and it is down these holes that the weights descend - right down to the ground floor. Fortunately some guards round the holes protect the unwary visitor from further detailed inspection.

Behind the Dial

Looking up to where the leading-off rod reaches the wall we see some gears known as the motion work. These gears are situated inside the tower and right behind the dial. They reduce the one-turn per hour of the minute hand into one turn in twelve hours of the hour hand. Small weights on the end of arms stick out at odd angles to counter-balance the weight of the hands outside. From the motion work on the wall a tube to the hands outside runs through a hole in the tower wall, in fact the hole is a small window, and the wall is very very thick about four feet! A chink of sunlight from outside illuminates the back of the dial, it is green in colour, so we know that this dial is made from copper sheet.

In the Belfry

Proceeding further up the staircase, we open another door and are treated to a flurry of dust in our faces. Outside the wind can be clearly heard, a reminder that we are now getting near the top of the tower. We are now in the belfry itself, we look in and see the bells, dull green as seen in the sunlight streaming in through the louvres - the open slats which allow the sound to escape whilst keeping the rain out. Belfries can be very dangerous places, so we do not go inside, but just pause to look in. Suddenly a bell starts to sound, the clock is striking the hour. A few pigeons perched outside the tower are startled and take off, their wings making a frantic clapping noise. The note of the bell is very loud and deep, and since we are so close it seems to be quite harsh. As the last stroke has sounded the bell goes on humming and humming, softer and softer until after a minute it has died away completely.

A fine View

Finally up the stairs once more, though a door where we have to bend almost double and then.... we are out on the roof to admire the view. After taking our breath we return down the stairs, and realise just how far we have come up. Then ducking down to avoid bumping out heads, we are again back at the bottom of the tower where we started.

We have experienced a turret clock.

Enjoy the visit? Well, if you want to go up a tower to see a clock for yourself, please get permission and go with someone; towers can be dangerous.

Continued page 4

Who Needs a Turret Clock?

The Need

Why do turret clocks exist? Where ever man has a need to gather together, then some form of keeping time is needed to regulate when the meeting takes place. These gatherings may be for worship, for work, or just for pleasure.

In Mediaeval times religious services in churches and monasteries were probably the reason why the clock was invented. Monks had rise in the morning, to attend many services a day, to eat together, and then to bed. Bells were tolled to call the monks to worship. Indeed it is from the Latin word for bell - *clocca*, that the name clock is derived. No one knows who invented the first clock, or where, or when. However there are some things we do know; one of these is that during a night in 1198 there was a fire in the Bury St. Edmunds Abbey. Monks put the fire out using their cowls, water from the well and water from the clock; so the Abbey had a water clock!

The Clock is Born

Mechanical clocks as we would recognise them, first made their appearance about 1275. At first these clocks hung on a wall and had an alarm to wake a monk who would then go and ring a bell in the tower to summon his brothers. At some point the clock was made larger so that it had enough power to strike a bell in a tower and the turret clock was born. One famous example of an early turret clock was at Salisbury Cathedral. Here in 1386, a man called Reginald Glover had to take care of the clock in the belfry as part of a legal contract. Some people say that the old clock on display in the cathedral today is the same clock referred to in the 1386 document, and so it is the oldest clock in the country. Such a claim is difficult to prove (or indeed to disprove!).

More Clocks

Turret clocks spread throughout churches, monasteries and royal palaces, all places where they was a large number of people working together. When country houses were built turret clocks were almost always put up, usually over the stable block. Here they would have kept time for the whole estate, regulating the life of all from the youngest stable lad to the lord himself.

Army and Navy barracks too had turret clocks. When factories started to be set up during the early 19th century turret clocks again appeared on these buildings to summon the workers, and to dismiss them at the end of the day.

In the village, like the town, the church clock regulated the affairs of people meeting together. "Run down to the church and tell me the time" a mother would say to her child. It did not matter if the youngster took a while to get home, accuracy was just not that important.

Correct Time

Turret clocks were set from a sundial, this meant the clocks in towns throughout the country did not tell the same time due to being at different longitudes. Differences across the UK could be up to 15 minutes, but this was quite accurate enough for local use since no one could travel fast enough to suffer. In the early 19th century when trains started to run across the country, correct time started to become important so Railway Time was used as a standard, and after this Greenwich Mean Time.

Less Need for Turret Clocks

It wasn't until late in the 19th century that the church clock declined in importance. Thanks to imports of cheap pocket watches from America, many people started to use their own time-piece. Wrist watches appeared on the scene around the time of the First World War: and their greater convenience led to an even further decline in the need for public clocks.

Today time is easily available to us all. Radio broadcasts the pips, Breakfast TV has its own little clock, teletext too has a continuous display of the time. Finally the amazing accuracy of quartz watches along with their low cost, really means that the turret clock is no longer really needed - it is out of date.

Regarded by All

But turret clocks still tick on, even though there is no real need for public time service they once provided. Loved by most people, they are taken care of: who would think of doing away with Big Ben, the clock on the Horseguards or the clock in the local Town Hall or church? Rather than do away with turret clocks there is a growing move to preserve our unique heritage which is so often hiding behind a dial.

My search for information for this series, TOWER CLOCKS AND CLOCK TOWERS lead me to correspond with Mr. Chris McKay of the UK Antiquarian Horological Society, author of The Turret Clock Keeper's Handbook.

Mr. McKay's interest in turret clocks began when he was 11 years old. This first restoration job commenced when he was 18 and took 10 years to complete. He was an early member of the AHS Turret Clock Group, and a past chairman of this group. Mr. McKay is a Chartered Engineer who has broad experience in the electronics industry. After a career move, he has been teaching technology in a wide range of schools and is now into his third career, this time in horology.

Publications and articles by Mr. McKay have become some of my favorites and as I once mentioned to him this article "transformed me into the horological version of Alice in Wonderland." The following article is printed with his permission. Laurie Altieri-Conti

Come, won't you step with me through the looking glass, let us embark on a "Visit to a clock". Chris McKay



RESTORATION OF AN HEIRLOOM

by Robert Gary

Among the items I received over the years from my father is the Hamilton wrist watch he received as a high school graduation gift from his parents in the mid-1930s. The watch had obviously been used extensively and had been stored away for decades and was in rather poor condition when given to me.

In a recent edition of the *NAWCC Bulletin*, Bruce Shawkey authored an article on a very similar Hamilton to my father's. Bruce was extremely helpful in his reply to my enquiry for information on my father's watch. The first photo is



that which I emailed to Bruce. You will notice that the crown is missing, the crystal is very badly gouged and scratched, and the expansion bars are badly rusted. Here, in part is what Bruce had to say about this watch:

"Are the sides of the case ribbed? I see evidence of that texturing on the edges of your photo. If so, you have a Hamilton "Boone" model, introduced in 1936. Clearly, the case is gold filled because I can see the wear spots on at least a couple of the corners.

The final test: Open the case if you can. I'm pretty certain that the movement caliber number you will see stamped on the movement is "980" and not "401" which is the caliber movement contained in all the Explorer models.

The Boone sold for \$52.50 when brand new. There is no definitive serial number database available (that I'm aware of) to date when the movement was made. That info exists for Hamilton POCKET watch movements, but not the wristwatch-grade movements.

The Boone was only available in the 1936, '37, and '38

catalogs, and was dropped from the '39 catalog and beyond. That's a fairly short run for a model, and helps date your watch to one of those years of production.

The 980 movement was introduced with the 1935 catalog, so your movement could have been made as early as 1935 and as late as 1938. That's as close as I can date it.

Yes, I would have the watch restored, but leave the dial as is. Just have the movement cleaned, oiled and adjusted. Replace the crystal (it will make the dial look much better) and replace the crown."

My next step in the process was to take advantage of the expertise of Chapter 75 member Jorge Montoya to have the watch overhauled and restored. Jorge did an outstanding job, as can be seen in this

second photo. Jorge pointed out to me something I had never seen before in a wristwatch. Notice the male lugs used for the wristband attachment Bruce Shawkey had this to say about the lugs:



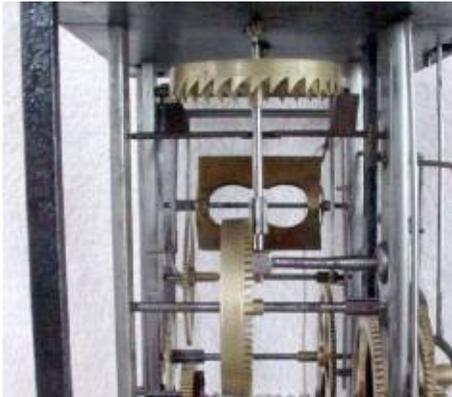
"I see you preserved the original dial. Very nice. The Boone has what are called "male lugs." One of the few, if only Hamilton model, that is configured that way. Most other watches that have male lugs were Swiss. Used mostly on 18kt solid gold models because it was easier to repair the male protrusions when they wore out than it was to fill in the usual holes that would become stretched over time. The pins that fit into the leather band are called "female spring bars." Again, most unusual. Most jewelry stores don't even carry them any more in their repair department and rely on a dwindling supply that were made in the 1930s-1950s."

I would like to extend my thanks to both Bruce and Jorge for kindly sharing their expertise and knowledge in the restoration of my father's watch.

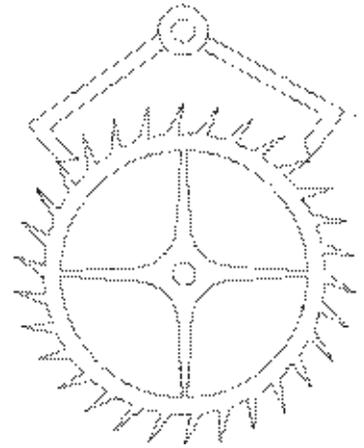
ABOUT ESCAPEMENTS

At our September meeting, I hope to enlighten you about a few of the many types of escapements that have been developed for clocks and watches. We are used to the Graham dead-beat design and recoil shapes and they form the basis of these can be grasshopper, configuration variations, which will the reasons each. I hope presentation to appreciate evolution of Chamberlain

many alterations. Some of seen in the cylinder, detent, pinwheel, and other s. If you get into these you can find whole books allow you to understand and physics involved in that I can make my short the catalysis that gets you what went into the escapements. **Jim n**



Crown Wheel Escapement



Graham Escapement

A Brewster & Ingrahams Clock with Eight Day Cast Iron and Brass Movement.

By: Bill Robinson

The photo on the left shows an eight day beehive clock made and sold by Brewster & Ingrahams about 1843-1846. The firm of Brewster & Ingrahams, Bristol Conn., was a co-partnership not a merger of two firms into one. E.C. Brewster & Co. made the movements while Elias and Andrew Ingraham supplied the cases from their clock case shop. The joint venture of Brewster and Ingrahams lasted from about 1843-1853.



Illustration 2, on the right, shows the front of the eight day movement from this clock. The movement was designed by Charles Kirk and manufactured by the firm of E.C. Brewster & Co. during the late 1830's and early 1840's. The springs used to power the movement are made of wrought brass.

Picture 3 shows an edge view of this same movement with brass frontplate and gears, but a cast iron backplate with cast differ from spring barrels while spring barrels rotate.

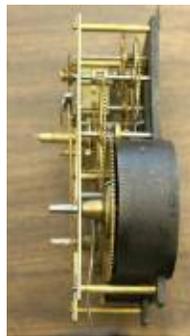
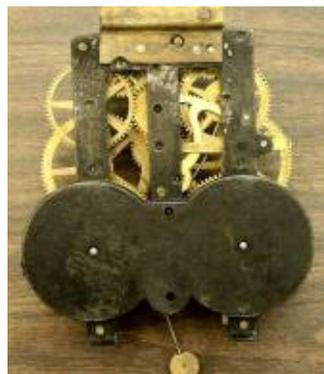


Illustration 4 (bottom left) shows the complete cast iron backplate. The brass original but was added at life of the clock. The the back plate are cast as our history steel springs, while available, were The process of making and patented by J.S. Ives

were first introduced there was some doubt about

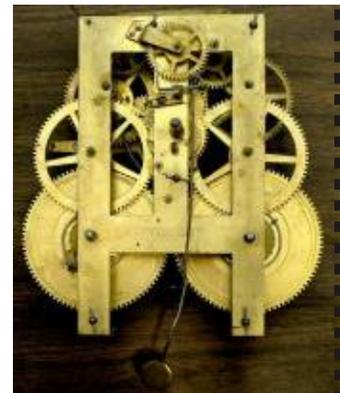


other parts of the clock in the event the springs should break, Charles Kirk designed, and E.C. Brewster manufactured, both thirty hour and eight-day movements with brass springs encased in iron spring wells.

Illustration 5 (bottom right) Shows a close up of the backplate. The rack of the rack and snail strike regulator can be seen here. Clocks with rack and snail strike from this period were often advertised as "repeating".

The pivot holes are also visible some with brass bushings some without. I believe the brass bushings were inserted as repairs at a later date and that all of the rear pivots originally ran on bearings drilled into the cast iron plates.

My primary source for facts and dates cited in this note was: "Handbook of Clocks Produced by Charles Kirk, Elisha C. Brewster, and Brewster and Ingrahams", written by Bill Ultsch and Doug Cowan, 1996. Other sources include the NAWCC supplement bulletin



#9 entitled "A Survey History of the American Spring-Driven Clock 1840-1860", by D.H. Shafer, Winter 1973 and "The Contributions of Joseph Ives to Connecticut Clock Technology, 1810-1862" by Kenneth D. Roberts, 1970.

Come to San Diego in November for the Southwest California Regional

hosted by Chapter 59 and co-hosted by Chapter 136

November 15, 16, 17, 2007

at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, in the Wyland Center

General Chairman: Mark Weaver, (619) 282-8414. Advisor: Earl Starr, (760) 438-0463.

Mart Chairman: Mike Hamilton

Key points:

- More than 265 8-foot tables in one well-lit room.
- 24-hour professional security
- Preferred hotel rates: ask for the "NAWCC rate" at the Holiday Inn Express Solana Beach/Del Mar, (858) 350-0111. \$110 2 Queens or King+Sofabed; \$150 Suite. Reserve by October 16, two night minimum, free hotel shuttle
- RV parking and hook-ups available
- NAWCC Regional Convention guidelines and California State Tax Laws apply



Schedule:

Thursday, November 15

Registration and Mart set-up 5 - 9 pm
Early Bird access 5 - 9 pm

Friday, November 16

Registration 9 am - 6 pm
Mart open 9 am - 6 pm
Program 11 am and 2 pm

Saturday, November 17

Breakfast 7 - 9 am
Mart open 9 am - 3 pm

The Fine Print: Postmark cut-off for pre-registration: Friday, November 2. Tables are assigned on a first-paid basis. One family per registration form. Multiple tables reserved by groups must be received in one envelope to ensure placement together. Maximum two adult registrants per table: shared table holder must be listed. No shared tables at the door. Only horological items may be bought or sold at the Mart, and only NAWCC members and their immediate families will be admitted. You must show your NAWCC card and a photo ID. The NAWCC, Chapter 59, Chapter 136, the Southwest California Regional and its officers, directors, employees, agents, and members, are NOT responsible for any loss, damage, injury, or tort during this event or related activities.

----- Please print clearly ----- Registration Form ----- Please print clearly -----

Name _____

NAWCC Number _____

Fellow, Old Timer, Silver Star, National Officer

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Spouse's name _____

Child's/Children's name(s) _____

Shared table holder name _____

Other table placement requests _____

Additional forms online at www.nawcc59.org

Quantity	Amount enclosed
----------	-----------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee, \$25 (before 11/2)	\$ _____
---	----------

<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Registration, \$20 (" ")	\$ _____
--	----------

After November 2 2007, add \$5 to above registration fees.

<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Pass, \$35/ea*	\$ _____
--	----------

<input type="checkbox"/> Mart table, \$35/ea* (no half tables)	\$ _____
--	----------

* Registration Fees must be paid to buy Early Bird Passes

or Mart tables. Lost badge fee: \$10.

<input type="checkbox"/> Children (age 12-18), \$5/ea	\$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Children (under age 12), FREE	\$ FREE
--	---------

<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday-only registration, \$10/ea	\$ _____
--	----------

<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast (Saturday), \$10/ea	\$ _____
--	----------

<input type="checkbox"/> Rent display cases ideal for watches or parts (3"x2"x3"), \$20/ea	\$ _____
--	----------

Total enclosed ----- \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Southwest California Regional

Mail to: Southwest California Regional

P.O. Box 80313

San Diego, CA 92138

Telephone: Jodi at (619) 670-5982

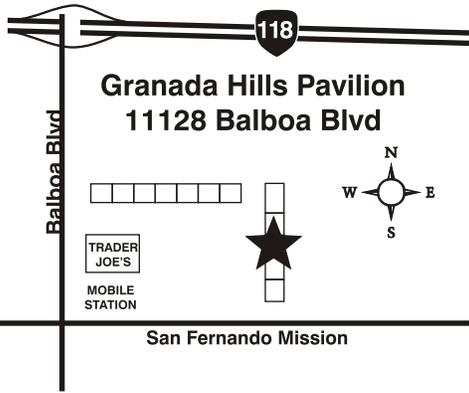
Email: regional@nawcc59.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

All members are welcome to sit in on the Chapter 75 Board of Directors' meeting which is held at 10:30 on the same day and in the same room as the Chapter meetings. Join the board members and get a first hand view of the issues confronting the chapter and hear what the Board plans for the future. It is your chapter. We want to know what you think and what you envision for Chapter 75's future.

MEETING LOCATION



Chapter 75 meets the 4th Sunday of every month, except December. **Visitors are welcome.** For more information, phone Ken McWilliams: 818-718-8300

If Undeliverable return To:
4950 Bowie Court
Simi Valley, CA 93063



THIS MONTH'S MEETING: **Sept. 23**

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Escapements by Jim Chamberlain.

Set-up Time: 11:00-11:30 • Operating: 11:30 to 2:30

,Meeting: 2:30 to 3:30