



Maine Chapter 89 NAWCC
2005 – 2006 Officers & Directors

July – August 2006 Newsletter

Nan Vance	President	Ben Crosby	Director
Paul Fournier	1 st VP	Creighton Gogos	Director
Mark Beever	2 nd VP	Carl McCabe	Director
Ern Grover	Secretary	Cal Morgan	Council Advisor
Tom Vance	Treasurer	Jim Bryant	Council Advisor

See us on the web at:

<http://www.nawcc89.org>

Newsletter Ideas or Something to Say?
Call Ern Grover (207) 490-3500 or
email secretary@nawcc89.org

Mark your calendar!

Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Willowbrook Museum Village, Newfield, ME
Chapter 89 Annual Clock Exhibit and Field Suitcase
Workshop F101-2.

Highlights from our July 2006 Meeting

“Welcome to Maine, the way life should be!” Chapter 89 has eighty-five members, but it’s not always easy for everyone to “get thay-er frum hear-er”. Maine’s a big state. Fifty-one members and guests arrived at the Rockport Boat Club in midcoast Rockport, Maine. Midcoast is where them city slicker out-staters settle down when they can't decide if they want to live up in Portland or Dow'east past Schoodic Point. There was a five-knot breeze coming from the south across the incoming tide of Rockport Harbor. Delightful. We either got a whiff of the lobsters, filet mignon, clam chowder and corn cooking, or a snort of the lobstermen at the next landing float cutting bait. All in all, it was a wonderful day, albeit, hot, humid and hazy. Cheerful folks, summertime in Maine and a great view surely put winter behind us. It was good to be back at the Rockport Boat Club. Sweet Maine and a Purfick Day!



Mark and Sharon Beever
prepare “corn on the cob”

The 168th meeting and 37th year of Maine Chapter 89 got underway at 11:00 a.m. During the Welcome Hour, we caught up on the latest news. Fairly soon our youngsters brought around fruit and veggie appetizers along with Rubber Boot Clam Chowder. President Nan Vance didn’t even get a chance to ring the cowbell to announce lunch. Maine cows know when it’s milking time. Chapter 89 members know when it’s time for

lunch. After the final finger licking, we got situated for the rest of the meeting.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Member Jim Lea made an announcement regarding recent legislation in Maine regarding a ban of the sale of mercury, including mercury barometers. This led to his concern about the sale of clocks with mercury pendulums. He advised that he had contacted the State and had it confirmed that there is no ban on the sale of antique clocks with mercury pendulums. He left literature on the subject with the Chapter.

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 16, 2006, Rick and Linda Balzer will present “Watches and Clocks: Collecting, Repairing and Making” to be held at the Atrium in Brunswick, Maine.

October 21, 2006, Ben Crosby will host the third suitcase workshop at his home in Winslow, Maine.

November 18, 2006 marks the date of the Chapter 89 Annual Auction and Election of Officers at the Atrium in Brunswick.

PRESENTATION: While folks continued to pick corn from between teeth (some from dentures), members brought their treasures to the podium to share information and stories about their clocks.

Cal Morgan showed us a dial painter’s template used to layout the chapter ring and numerals on a wooden dial. It consisted of a sheet metal overlay with hundreds of tiny perforations. By use of a pounce bag charged with lampblack, the dial painter could follow the telltale black dots in order to hand letter the dial. Connect the dots. There was one hole marked “hang”. Cal presumed it had been used more than once to paint a black dot on the dial, but the hole was to hang up the template.



Cal shared one of the easiest and safest means of cleaning a wooden dial. By running a piece of masking tape around the edge of the dial to form a wall and taping the dial holes from the backside, one could cover the surface of the dial with oatmeal. Swishing it around and letting it rest for a period of time would achieve the desired results. This is one procedure where you can “clean your dial and eat breakfast afterwards.”

Ern Grover brought an unusual electrical device, taking

guesses from the audience. It resembled an artillery shell with a switch handle and power cord. Actually it was an old Sunbeam baby-bottle warmer he uses in his shop to heat up hide glue. The one shot thermostat clicks off at proper temperature and eliminates the need to remember to shut off the glue pot when done with a job. Next he demonstrated and briefly described the function of a Barr electric hipp-toggle clock. While the pendulum amplitude decays, a series of events restores the pendulum amplitude.

Tom Vance brought an Edwards tall case clock. The name on the dial is clearly Edwards of Ashby, Massachusetts. But the initial before the name is faded but believed to be "S" followed by what appears to be the tops of an "m" and an "l" for Samuel. Samuel worked in his father's shop prior to 1808. His father was Abraham Edwards. It has an early wooden works, cherry plates and soapstone weights. It was suggested that the middle finial might have had an eagle on top of the ball. The case is pine and the style is of a fine country clock.

Paul Fournier shared two sweeties with us. Both were 9" tall, time & alarm 30-hour Seth Thomas cottage clocks. Although the glasses and tablets are original, Paul believed the hands not to be correct. The first is listed by Tran Duy Ly as a 'Cottage C', and in the NAWCC article by Owen Burt (Issue 312, p. 5) as a 'Flat Top with OG Base'. It bears the Plymouth Hollow label dating it to 1862. The second is listed as a "Cottage A", or "Octagon Top with Round Base", and was dated to 1880 by R. O. Schmitt of Windham, NH. "Good timekeepers," Paul said, "and only 17 more to find in the series."

THANK YOU: A special "Thank you!" goes to Jim & Barbara Lea for again making it possible for us to meet at the Rockport Boat Club. Chapter 89 also extends a warm thanks to the many volunteers who set up, served and cleaned up. You made a difference!



Answer to last quiz (left to right) Joe Katra, James Rooney, Skip Smith, Cal Morgan. No one stepped up to the plate, so I ate the prize ... the lobster.

Help Wanted! Volunteers are needed to help with Chapter 89 Committees. We've lots of openings in the following Committees and Workshops:

Education – Chair Ben Crosby 562-4285
Maine Tower Clocks – Chair Dr. Mark Beever 625-7353
Mart – Chair Paul Fournier 885-8637 & Mark Beever 625-7353

Marketing – Chair Ern Grover 490-3500
Norlands – Chair Ben Crosby 562-4285
Newsletter – Chair Ern Grover 490-3500
Program – Chair Paul Fournier 885-8637 & Mark Beever 625-7353
Repair Workshops – Chair Ern Grover 490-3500
Research – Chair Cal Morgan 725-8738
Willowbrook – Chair Ern Grover 490-3500
Web Site – Chair Tom Vance 677-6240

Collecting Pocket Watches—a teaser for September

Calloused fingers seasoned with lubricating oil and grease tug on the fob of a watch from his jacket vest. "Smokey", the engineer, makes a worried glance at the scratched crystal. With a wave of his hand, he signals down to the platform conductor.

"Boaaaarrrrrrr! Leavin' from Bangah, 'Gusta, Brunswick, Baaath and up to Portland now boarding!"

Railroad watches made this moment of yesteryear possible. As rough and tumble as the era surrounding it, the Waltham, Howard and Illinois pocket watches were actually quite an achievement of precision in their day. You can swear by your Wal-Mart quartz watch if you want, but there's nothing like have a live ticker in your watch pocket. Back to the story ... they were good timekeepers and intended to keep trains on schedule and hopefully prevent two trains from sharing the same intersection.

Love my clocks, but these portable timekeepers deserve a second look. Many people today collect them for their value, intricate detail and rich heritage.

Railroad watches were unique. By design, there were set on a weekly basis, and they were inspected by a watch repairman at regular intervals. The railroads had a detailed set of standards for their watches -- lever set, precise to 30 seconds a week, jeweled movement, and an open face with Arabic numerals.

Each watch is unique, whether it is the case, the face, or the design. The worth of the watch is ... well, that's another story, and Cal Morgan is best to tell that at a future meeting. I'm sure Rick and Linda Balzer will have tons to share with you on the subject.

The next time you tug on s watch fob, imagine an engineer leaning out the cab window. You might be tempted to look for the conductor to give him the sign.

Steam gushes from the locomotive whistle, sending a long piercing wail ringing through the station. The train starts to move and the conductor leaps aboard...



President's Message:

We're looking forward to some fantastic programs for 2006 and 2007, and with your participation, Chapter 89 will be a shining star in the Northeast!

Thank you everyone for your support. You're family and you're tops!

Nan Vance, Bristol, Maine

President, Maine Chapter 89, NAWCC