



Maine Chapter 89 NAWCC

September-October 2006 Newsletter

Officers & Directors

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

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

Workshop Students, Mark your calendar! Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter 89 Field Suitcase Workshop F101-3, Brunswick
Qualified newcomers are welcome.
RSVP Ern Grover 324-8994. Call for Directions.

Highlights from our September 2006 Meeting

"Welcome to Maine, the way life should be!" Thirty-seven members and guests arrived at the Atrium "Winner's Sports Grill" in Brunswick, Maine beneath a lofty clouds nudged by an early Fall breezes. No bugs!

The 169th meeting and 37th year of Maine Chapter 89 got underway at 11:00 a.m. with some NEW faces in the crowd. During the Welcome Hour, we caught up on the latest news.

OLD BUSINESS: President Vance thanked the many people who worked hard to make the July Lobster Picnic a success and noted that the clubhouse was left in better shape than we received it. Special thanks were extended to Secretary and Chef Extraordinaire Ern Grover for his culinary contributions and exceptional hard work. A rousing applause from the membership followed.

CHAPTER CHARTER: The original Charter issued by the NAWCC has come home. Cal Morgan, FNAWCC and former Maine Chapter 89 President announced our original charter has been found. It was promptly sent to Cal Morgan, and after hugging and kissing it, he framed it. Welcome home!

Cal filled us in on the history of the Chapter and how it began as the Maine Clock Collector's Club. He read the Minutes from the FIRST meeting at which the Charter was originally presented to the Chapter. He noted that the Charter was presented at the October 26, 1975 meeting, on his birthday. E. Hushman, NAWCC President and W.D. Bundens M.D., NAWCC Vice President had signed it. Cal then passed the Charter along to President Vance, as the Charter is to be kept by the President, and then

passed to the next President.

President Vance announced that we've located Chapter 89's first President, Skip Smith. He is now an Honorary Member of Maine Chapter 89.

RECOGNITION AWARD: President Vance noted that Cal Morgan received NAWCC Old Timer award for being one of 200 active members having the lowest membership numbers. He was sporting a handsome gold lapel pin for standing with the NAWCC since the early beginnings. Cal related that he is very honored, "but it kind of makes me feel old!"

WILLOWBROOK EXHIBIT: President Vance then read Ern Grover's report about the Maine Chapter 89 Clock Exhibit at Willowbrook Museum Village. Chapter 89 hosted a clock and watch exhibit at Willowbrook in Newfield, Maine on August 26th. Concurrently nine eager chapter members participated in the Chapter 89 Field Suitcase Workshop as instructors Ben Crosby, Mark Beever and Ern Grover coached the progress of their efforts. Ben and Trudy Crosby also hosted Kid's Korner at the Sandwich Shoppe annex at Willowbrook. Come join us in August 2007. Willowbrook staff was extremely pleased with the positive feedback from area visitors.

NEW MEMBERS: Creighton Gogos introduced Michael Randazzo of Portland, Maine and Carl Silveri of Long Island, Maine to the membership and administered the induction oath. Chapter 89 Membership welcomes each new member with a warm handshake.

NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2006 is the date of our next membership meeting. Time to practice waving your hands for the Election of 2007 Officers and Directors ("Pick me, pick me") and the Chapter 89 Annual Auction ("See my hand, see my bid?"). If we can't get you to serve a Chapter Officer, we'll get your money on a bid. Please bring your wallet, bring something to sell and bring items for Show & Tell.

SHOW N TELL: Paul and Joanne Fournier brought in a lovely Silas Hoadley Ogee that Joanne's brother found at a yard sale. Paul immediately asked him to go back and purchase it, sight unseen.

Paul and Joanne also had the face, mechanism, pendulum and one of the weights from her brother's tall case clock. The earliest family record is from 1855. Generations ago, most of the name was cleaned off the face. Family records indicated it could be a Wingate. Cal Morgan said it looked correct to be a Wingate. Rick and Chris Balzer agreed. Chris Balzer has a Wingate in his home, and said it looked very similar. A 'W' is what remains of the signature, and everyone agreed that the second line was

Augusta. The face was also numbered.

Paul reported that the weight shows the damage created when a deer hunter's stray shot came into the farmhouse. It went through the side of the clock, bouncing off the weight. Joanne's father had been standing in the path just minutes prior. Her mother placed the bullet, all shavings, and the newspaper article all together in an archival bag inside the clock base.

Tom Vance brought in two American Watch Co. pocket watches, key wind silver cased, he had purchased for \$5.00 as part of a box of watches many years ago from an antique shop. There was also a Waltham pocket watch that had been sold in 1966 for over \$2,000. It may not sound like a lot of money, but at the time, it represented about seven to eight month's salary! The collector who purchased the watch believed it to be the fourth pocket watch made by Waltham. Good things come in small packages.

President Vance encouraged members to bring in Show & Tell items and reiterated that they need not be fancy!

PRESENTATION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded, and the members turned their attention to the presentation, "Watches and Clocks: Collecting, Repairing and Making".

Rick Balzer began by introducing the "Balzer Family", Rick, Linda, son Chris, and the youngest member, his grandson Cameron. Full of enthusiasm, Rick, Linda and Chris Balzer enthralled the audience with some tales of their years of dedication to collecting, restoration and manufacture of timepieces. He said the presentation would have a little for everybody including watch and clock collectors and makers. It was an informative, educational, and entertaining presentation of where we have been with clock and watch making, what is happening today, and where he would like to see us go. After his presentation he then opened the floor to member's questions.

"We do what you do, but a little differently - most clock and watchmakers don't make everything, those of you who feel that you can't do everything, are wrong YOU CAN! The old makers' achievements are appreciated, but their craft seems to be lost today. We aren't making things today, and we should. The major watch companies are buying up most of the parts supply houses. They found that the money to be made is in servicing timepieces, so now to get things fixed you have to send the piece to them. Today's major clock movement makers have designed them to last a maximum of twenty to twenty-five years, and replacing them with new movements is cheaper than trying to fix them. Tell that to your

customer, and see their reaction after being told they bought a quality piece." Rick's message was to gather up any and all the spare parts you can, because they will soon disappear.

Rick gave a history of the Balzer family business. He started with a simple shop and lots of literature. Rick then bought clocks and watches at the flea market for investment and restoration.

They started with a "crude" tower clock and turned it into a successful business. After four years of construction their first clock was presented to the people in custody of L.L. Bean in honor of Aaron Lufkin Dennison, "The Father of the Watchmaking Industry in the United States", who was born in Freeport, Maine (which was still Massachusetts at that time). This was the first tower clock made in America since Howard's last Tower Clock in 1964.

Dennison, along with Edward Howard, began the American Horologe Company, which eventually became the Waltham Watch Company. Elgin for example became very successful using stolen engineers from Waltham. Balzer's goal is to bring back American-Made timepieces. For a starter Chris has prepared one hundred wooden works movements to go into wooden clock cases, all made from the Maine woods.



Rick showed us his working prototype tower clock that combined old "know how" with modern technology. It has the Dennison gravity escapement and a six-degree pendulum arc to provide incredible time accuracy. Combining this "old know how", with modern metals for the pendulum rod, aerodynamic shape for the bob, and modern technology he can make his Tower Clocks accurate to within three seconds per month. The clock requires no monthly oiling and only annual cleaning. His plea to the members was - "Build something - afterwards you will feel different. There is no feeling like it."

Rick had a large display of pocket watches and wristwatches. He took several and spoke of their history and characteristics.

During Rick's presentation Chris made a watch pinion on an automatic pinion-cutting machine, they brought in for the meeting. It was one of several they acquired.

As one would expect, many members lingered to ask questions of the Balzers.

INVITATION: Come join us at a future meeting. We'd love to show you some Maine hospitality. Sincere thanks go to Alex Cummings, Cal Morgan, Nan Vance, Paul Fournier for taking notes in the Secretary's absence, making a combined report much easier.

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!



CAL'S CORNER
*An ongoing feature by
Chapter 89 member
FNAWCC Cal Morgan*

**WOOD WORKS
- LOOSE PILLARS**

One of the things that will certainly stop a clock is loose pillars. Examine these closely in the back plate to ensure that there is no play or side shake of any kind.

Should there be play of any kind when the clock is set up to run, the front plate will drop slightly casting the arbors out of alignment causing enough friction to stop the clock.

If the pillars can be removed with no damage to the plate, clean off the old glue and re-glue them to the plate. (a solution of vinegar and water will remove old hide glue nicely.)

If the pillars cannot be removed prudently, an application of piano pin tighter or "chair lock," will suffice. (Chair-Loc," and like substances is a clear liquid which attracts moisture from the environment causing the Joint to swell.)

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

Rockland - Festival of Lights Celebration

Rockland. November 24-26, 2006. Celebrate the holidays in the Real Maine. Santa arrives by Coast Guard boat at Public Landing in Rockland. Enjoy historic inn holiday open houses, tree lighting ceremony, downtown parade of lights, family pancake breakfast with Santa, children's activities, Santa's workshop, gallery night, horse-drawn carriage rides, carolers and more. Call the [Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce](#) at (207) 596-0376 for details.

Rockport - Holiday Craft Market - 27th Annual Event

Samoset Resort, Rockport. November 25, 2006. Maine made, hand-crafted items for sale at all day craft event. Juried craft show with over 70 exhibitors and Santa too. Phone the [Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce](#) at (207) 596-0376 for details.

Bath Holiday - Old Fashioned Christmas in Bath

Bath Maine. November 25 - December 30, 2006. Special events taking place throughout the holiday season include: Twinkle Parade, community sings, craft fairs, antiques show, holiday house tour. Ends with Paul Revere Bell Ringing on December 30, 2006. Phone (207) 442-7291 for details.

Brunswick - 8th Annual Arts Downtown and All Around

Brunswick. December 2-3, 2005. Mid Coast REACH hosts the Eighth Annual Arts Downtown and All Around. It is a showcase for more than 100 artists at fifty art sites in Brunswick, Bath, Topsham and other nearby towns. The variety and richness of area artists is reflected in this weekend event. Along with the weekend of open galleries, downtown Brunswick and Bath will host two group shows with more than 30 local Maine artists. All exhibits are open 10 to 5 on Friday and Saturday, with special Downtown events held into the evening. Yellow banners will be hung at all participating locations.

Freeport - 13th Annual Sparkle Weekend

Freeport. December 1-3, 2006. "Sparkle" holiday event with a Tuba Christmas Concert, holly trolley rides, hot cocoa stops, Talking Christmas Tree, visits with Santa and more. For details phone (207) 865-1212.

Winter Wonderlands Holiday House Tour

Boothbay. December 10, 2005. The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens offers this visit of eight Boothbay region houses and inns decked out in their Christmas finery. Evergreens inside and out, hearths and windows elaborately decorated, and a sea of twinkling lights. Call (207) 633-4333 for details.

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*

"State of Maine Clock and Watch Collectors"

Established April 27, 1969

"Maine Chapter 89, NAWCC"

Chartered October 26, 1975

Signatories

E. Hushman, NAWCC President and

W.D. Bundens M.D., NAWCC Vice President

The 16th meeting of the Maine Clock Group of the NAWCC convened its first meeting as an official chapter at 2:00 PM on October 26, 1975. The meeting was held at Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and 66 were in attendance. President Skip Smith called the meeting to order and thanked Dr. Richard Britt for his efforts in organizing the meeting and preparing the buffet luncheon. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Introductions of those in attendance followed. Pete Setford presented the group with clock dials, which he had printed.

President Smith next presented the official charter to Chapter 89 and reviewed history of the group. A by-laws committee was formed and a report is anticipated at the next meeting. The next order of business was planning meetings for the coming year. Four are planned. 1. January, display of watches, Augusta. 2. April, Portland. 3. July, Strong, Seward Marsh, Grange Lunch, auction. 4. October.

The nominating committee presented its recommendation that Skip Smith be elected as president, Calvin Morgan, as Vice president, Ralph Wentworth, treasurer, and Jim Rooney, secretary. These committees' recommendations were accepted. Joe Katra next reported on events in the New England Chapter.

Skip Smith suggested that the chapter might consider having a project for 1976. Cal Morgan next suggested that those in attendance sign one of Pete Setfords' clock dials since it was the first meeting of the Maine chapter.

A display of kitchen clocks was next on the agenda. Following this the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM to enable people to tour Rowntree Pottery and the Holt History House where some members managed to set up and start a tall clock which had been standing idle.