



An English Tall Case Clock

by Paul Skeels

Shortly after helping launch Chapter 190, I decided to find an interesting tall case clock, circa 1750-1850, as a project. Most of those I have seen have been too expensive for my purposes. Fellow member, Dick Henderson, recently decided to sell a project clock that seemed to fit the bill. He had two or three project clocks stored in the rafters of his garage for decades that he never got around to restoring. The one I purchased was definitely a project, but was very original, in a dark case. The movement is a 30 hour time and strike operated by a single continuous loop chain and weight.

Two things really interested me about the clock. The first is the dial (pictured) which is hand-painted and depicts, in the four corners, views of sailing boats and a large lighthouse. At the top of the dial is a larger view of a very early paddle wheel steamship, sailing near the same lighthouse. Near the center of the dial is a reclining cow. The signature on the dial is "John Broad with Bodmin below the name".

Not knowing anything about John Broad or Bodmin I did some internet research and found that John Broad was a clockmaker on Honey Street in Bodmin, Cornwall, England in the first half of the 1800's. His father, Richard Broad, was a watchmaker. You can find Honey Street on Google Earth Street View, and you will see that Bodmin is in a heavily agricultural area of Cornwall, not too far from the English Channel to the south and the Bristol Channel to the north; which probably explains the symbolism and pictures on the dial.

Further research uncovered the fact that there is presently a clock manufacturer in Bodmin called

Richard Broad Clocks. They install German movements in locally manufactured cases, sort of like our Howard Miller Company. I contacted Richard Broad Clocks for information and they acknowledged they are not direct descendants of the original Broads, but named their company after them.

The rep told me there are only a very small number of John Broad clocks known to be in existence.

The second thing that interested me about the clock is a penciled inscription inside the door which states, "Wm Cavell received this clock January 8, 1838. Five Pounds Worth."

At this point, I have cleaned and oiled the movement and it is running nicely in the waiting room of my office. My wife, who is my office manager, quickly grew tired of the hourly strike, and on a tip from Ferdinand Geitner, I bypassed the strike train by simply taking off the lifting lever. Since the single weight, continuous chain no longer has to use energy to run the strike train,

my 30 hour clock has become a 72 hour clock! ■



Ken's Tidbits

It may sound like a tragically ironic myth that on the night the Titanic sank they were showing the film "The Poseidon Adventure," about a group of people trying to stay alive after their ocean liner capsized. But it's true. Two films were scheduled during the voyage and both had nautical themes: The 1911 movie "The Lighthouse Keeper" starring Mary Pickford played on the evenings of April 12 and 13, and "The Poseidon Adventure," directed by D. W. Griffith, played on April 14. The movie began at 11 p.m. and people were so enthralled by the action, they didn't notice their ship jolting when it hit the fatal iceberg forty minutes later.

Officers and Board of Directors

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Mike Schmidt

(805) 988-1764 • EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Ken McWilliams

(818) 718-8300 • internut@socal.rr.com

LEGAL ADVISOR

Paul Skeels

(805) 525-7325 • plskeelsatty@verizon.net

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(805) 637-9810 • giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

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(805) 484-5580 • dgrubright@verizon.net

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(805) 642-7329 • whrobi@roadrunner.com

E-Mail For Newsletter:
internut@socal.rr.com

Web Site:

www.nawcc-ch190.com

WEBMASTER

David Coatsworth

dave@biswebdesign.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

The Chapter website is consistently updated with current information. Our webmaster, Dave Coatsworth, has done a superb job of telling the story of Chapter 190, adding current newsletters, chapter activities, photos, announcements, and educational opportunities. Dave has recently added a new "Article Index" for the "CHRONO TIMES" newsletters. Check it out; it's a cool addition to the website!

Chapter 190 members reflect the diversity of NAWCC members in general. They have many different horological interests. A growing group of our members have an interest in wrist watches. This month we are presenting a program, "Higher End Wristwatches". The program (to be presented by Ron Kubitsky) will explore the growing demand and history of mechanical and electronic masterpieces.

I have scheduled a four day FSW 302 Beginning Wrist Watch Repair workshop. The workshop is to be held in Ventura and is scheduled for January 27-30, 2012. The Instructor is Ferdinand Geitner and the coordinator is Weber Wang. If you are interested contact Weber at 626-336-2870 or email at weberwang@hotmail.com.

Congratulations go to all of the students who recently completed the July FSW 202 "Lathe II Workshop" with Instructor Ray Marsolek. Students: class coordinator Alan Davis, Daniel Kirker, Dan McKinnon, Lex Rooker, Steven Schechter, and Glen Webb

This month continues the election process for Chapter Officers and Board Directors. Open nominations have begun with the July meeting, and will close at the August meeting, followed by elections in September. If you want to make a nomination, be on the Board, or just help out, please contact the nominating committee of Ernie Jenson, George Antinarelli, and Paul Skeels.

The Board meets at 9:45 on Sunday, prior to the workshop. The meeting is open to all members.

I will have a limited amount of 2012 NAWCC calendars available at \$10. This is a wonderful and useful calendar that was prepared under the direction of Daniel Weiss. The calendar features "Timepieces from NAWCC Membership" and many of the unique timepieces featured are from Chapter 190 members. All proceeds go the NAWCC as a donation.

The Sunday morning workshops are free, open to all, and are well attended. At 10:30AM a discussion, "Pivot Polishing 2", will be led by George Antinarelli, and at 11:30 AM a discussion on Watch Repair will be led by Jorge Montoya. If you want to learn or get some help with a repair problem this is the place to be. The coffee will be on early.

See you at the meeting

Mike



Happy Birthday

John Berney, Alan Bloore, Jim Chamberlain,
Bill Frank, Royce Hulsey, Ken McWilliams,
Merl Meach, Ralph Napolitano

Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

Roskopf Anyone?

When my customer brought this watch to me for repair, I was taken by the overall look and detail of the case and dial. Pocket watches come in all shapes, sizes, and qualities. This one is the odd-one-out as you can see from the pictures! This example has a beautiful detailed enamel dial, with calendar complications of Day, Date, Month and Moon phase indication; a detailed engraved rural motive with floral surround adorns the back of the silver case.

So, the first impression (which is so important) is very favorable!

Then, I opened the back cover and was faced with a cheaply constructed pin pallet Roskopf movement. Actually, I've seen cheaper because this one has 3 jewels. (Wow three !!!)

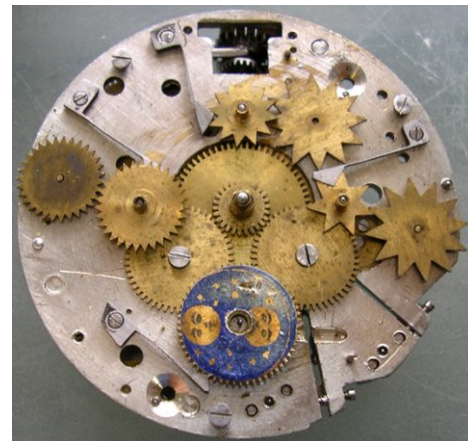


The name Roskopf in collectors and traders circles is synonymous with cheap, lower quality watch movements; Roskopf was an idealist who dreamed of making good quality, low cost watches for the working man.

As one can see the construction is very simple & efficient; one large main plate with pillars and simple easy to manufacture flat plate bridges. One of the main features of the Roskopf design is that there is no center wheel through the middle of the watch which allows for a larger barrel and fewer wheels, again, cheaper to manufacture. The motion work driving the hour and minute hands is driven directly from a minute wheel mounted (with friction) on the dial side of the barrel.

Note the two slots cut into the main plate; the pallet is located in between the slots and by turning the screws on the edge one can adjust the depth of the pallet into the escape wheel (simple & efficient).

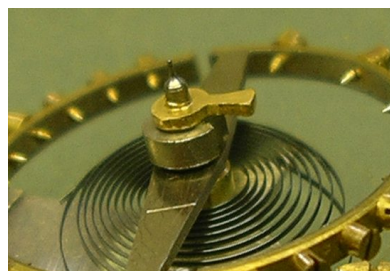
Roskopf apprenticed to watchmakers in La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland between 1829 and 1835. In 1855 he set up his own



business together with his son, Fritz Edouard, and Henry Gindraux as ROSKOPF, GINDRAUX & CO. After two years, his son opened his own watch business and Gindraux became the director of the watch making school of Neuchatel.

In 1860, Roskopf designed a watch that could be sold for 20 Swiss francs (a week's pay for an unskilled laborer) and called it "montre proletaire" (laborer's watch).

Roskopf was shunned by watchmakers who were still working as a home industry and did not wish to make a watch for mass production. In 1866, Roskopf ordered two boxes of ebouches (raw watch movements) from Emile Roulet and asked Gustave Rousselet to make escapements and both refused to take his orders. He finally succeeded in producing his watch in 1867 and with support from the famous house of BREGUET in Paris Roskopf was able to present his watch at the Universal



Exhibition in Paris; the Jury gave him a Bronze Medal. From then on even Breguet began to send him orders and by 1870 he'd ordered 20000 ebouches to produce his watches.

In 1869, the Roskopf watch was exhibited at the Amsterdam Exhibition and won a Silver Medal! The total amount of Roskopf patent watches is estimated at 20,000,000.

There is a lot more to this simple little movement than meets the eye and I'll never look at it in the same discerning way again ■

LEAP SECONDS

by Crawford L. Sachs

How many seconds are there in a minute? If you say there are 60, then you may be wrong!

We all know our ancestors started out telling time by the sun. After clocks were invented, we learned they did not agree with the sun during different seasons of the year. That was no big problem. The astronomers developed an "equation of time" that allowed people to calculate clock time from solar time and solar time from clock time.

Many settlements had somebody who used a sundial to correct the town clock. The people set their clocks and watches from that.

When the railroads came along, they couldn't change their watches for every town so we defined time zones. Using the telegraph, the Naval Observatory could transmit the correct time across the whole country.

As time went on, clocks were improved. It got to the point that they were more accurate as timekeepers than the spinning Earth itself.

The world switched from using astronomical observations as the standard for time to using atomic clocks. People began to set their clocks by the WWV time signals out of Fort Collins, Colorado. The problem arose that even with all of the regular corrections that were made, the sun and stars did not appear when and where they should have. The Earth was at the wrong spin angle.

In 1970, the scientists decided to introduce leap seconds to correct for changes in the Earth's rotational speed. Twice a year they announced how many seconds would be in the last minute of June or December. There can be 59, 60 or 61 seconds in that last minute.

The system worked for a while, but then something happened to the Earth (we don't know what) and no leap seconds were needed from the end of 1998 until the end of 2005. In those seven years many people bought home computers and the Internet became very popular. The 2005, leap second came along and there was more than a little confusion. Switzerland, of all places, adjusted their clocks the wrong way! So did one out of seven Internet time sources. Many software problems cropped up too.

Why should that be? It seems there are two ways to measure an interval of time. You can count the number of seconds that occur during the interval (using a stopwatch) or you can record the time when it begins and when it ends. The difference in those times is the length of the interval. Usually, you will get the same length for the interval either way, but not always. Suppose your clock time is regulated by WWV and a leap second occurs during the interval you are

measuring. You get the wrong answer. Your stopwatch won't get the leap second announcement so it won't reset itself during the interval and it will give the correct answer.

One second is small potatoes in adjusting my cuckoo clocks because I work in minutes and fractions of a minute per day. Other people have clocks good for a few seconds per week and a one-second error in regulating those clocks really matters. Some jobs require much greater precision. This year a factory in Japan lost its January and February production of electronic chips due to a process timing error of less than a second. Imagine the chaos that could result near a busy airport if the radar skipped or added a second and calculated the incorrect position and velocity of the aircraft it controlled.

We expect a leap second in 2012. Now you have been warned. ■

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This Month's Mini-Workshop

will be a double workshop.

At 10:30AM, "Pivot Polishing 2" will be led by George Antinarelli, and at 11:30 AM a discussion on Watch Repair will be led by Jorge Montoya.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

FSW 101 - Beginning Clock Repair

This is a 4 day workshop offered October 7-10
Coordinator Ralph Napolitano, phone: 805 509-2530
email: ralphnapolitano@msn.com

FSW 104 - Introduction to Weight & Fusee Driven Clocks.

This is a 4 day workshop offered Nov. 11-14
Coordinator Paul Skeels Phone: 805 525-7325
email: plskeelsatty@verizon.net

A future workshop to be offered, if there is enough interest, is the **F502 The Atmos Repair Course**. If you are interested in the 3 day workshop please contact Coordinator George Gaglini 805-647-6463 or email: ggaglini@roadrunner.com

If you have an interest in a workshop or horological subject, please make your interest known to me or any Board member. You can find all of the Field Suitcase classes presently offered, with information, on the NAWCC website.

If you do not see the subject that you are interested in, please let us know. We are always interested in your suggestions.

by Henri Bonnet

When it comes to wristwatches, I seldom have had to grope for an opinion. Nevertheless, one particular question, often asked by some of my friends, had repeatedly stymied me: "If money was no object, which is the best wristwatch one could buy?" My usual answer to a question like that is: "how much do you want to spend?" Nevertheless, before such a question can be answered intelligently, it would first be useful to define what a top of the line wristwatch (*haut de gamme*, in French) means. It signifies the highest possible quality and perfection that a high end manufacturer has been able to achieve in producing an outstanding timepiece.

These are also known sometimes as luxury or upscale wristwatches. Such watches are usually manufactured in small series rather than mass-produced. In many instances, only a handful is ever made. They are produced from the finest materials and receive considerable "hand-made" attention in their fabrication, as well as in their assembly and adjustment; hence their high cost. Today there are no more than a scattering of watch houses whose timepieces could truly be considered "haut de gamme", (namely: high-end). These are usually the brands whose vintage watches always command the highest prices at international auctions. Such wristwatches are not normally within the reach of the average consumer, even the moderately well-to-do. Over time, watches like that become very scarce as well as desirable to connoisseurs and sometimes reach the vintage auction houses at ten or more times their original price. (See picture)

Be as it may, that doesn't mean that the rest of us here, who might be prepared to pay the price for a superlative timepiece are totally left out. These days one can buy a good quality wristwatch from a top manufacturer, between five thousand and fifty thousand dollars. For the moderately affluent, there are perhaps a dozen top brands to choose from, each of which has been manufacturing excellent wristwatches for decades. So, unless one wants to rely primarily on advertising or word of mouth, one must do a certain amount of research before arriving at an intelligent decision. Let's not forget that knowledge is power, if one intends to spend his money wisely. Choosing and paying dearly for a high quality wristwatch isn't something that most people would take lightly. For the purpose at hand however, let's assume that the prospective watch buyer possesses only minimal to moderate knowledge about watches and that money is not a limiting



A "Patek Philippe" wristwatch from the forties sold at auction in 2010 for a record price of over 5.7 million dollars.

factor (within reason). Given the above stipulations, here are some pertinent questions one may want to find the answers to, before embarking on the purchase of an expensive high quality wristwatch:

1. Do you think that the exorbitantly expensive wristwatches that are the rage of today's well-heeled fashion lovers would still remain attractive to most people in the future?
2. Which are the brands that have consistently produced superior timepieces for many decades, perhaps even a century or more?
3. Which are the companies that have done so without giving way to passing fads and tastes that were unlikely to prevail long term?
4. Which are the manufacturers that have refrained from producing extravagant additions to their wristwatches that have little or nothing to do with good timekeeping?
5. Which are the firms whose timepieces are the result of consistent evolution, rather than revolution?
6. Which are the brands that haven't arbitrarily discarded good technology, just because it's been around for many years? Which manufacturers have devoted attention to details, not only of the movement, but of every part of the watch, including the case, the dial, the hands as well as the strap or the bracelet?
8. Which companies have exposed their dials to artificially accelerated aging conditions, just to determine how the watch might look like, fifty or a hundred years later, and have used that information to improve the longevity of their dials?
9. Which brands are offering a good choice of models to please various needs and preferences?
10. Which are the manufacturers whose current timepieces have the same enduring classical appearance, like those of fifty or sixty years ago?
11. Which companies have continued to produce exceptional wristwatches in spite of market downturns?
12. Which firms have the best reputation for after-sale service, especially with regards to repairs and restoration?
13. Which brands produce their wristwatch movements and most other components in house, rather than purchasing those from various domestic and foreign suppliers?
14. Which manufacturers were able to combine elegance, refinement, and style without sacrificing functionality and ergonomics?
15. Which companies produce distinctive horology, rather than jewelry that also passes for wristwatches?

Continued on page 6

16. Which brand's vintage timepieces consistently fetch the highest prices at international auctions?

Knowing as much as possible about a high-end manufacturer will certainly make one's ownership of a quality wristwatch that much more satisfying over the long run. You may even enjoy the research itself and discover some aspects of horology that you would otherwise never have suspected. There are some very good books about each one of the major watch companies which you may purchase, or alternatively borrow from the NAWCC main library. The internet isn't necessarily the best place for that kind of research.

Here is some additional advice that could make a difference in one's ultimate satisfaction with the purchase of a high quality, expensive wristwatch.

1. If at all possible, pay a visit to the factory where your potential choice of a wristwatch is being manufactured. Individuals as well as group tours can often be readily arranged. For a watch lover, this would make an interesting and rewarding vacation destination.
2. In addition to your own research, seek the opinion of knowledgeable individuals. A good choice would be an experienced watchmaker, or an accomplished watch collector.
3. Always purchase the highest quality timepiece you can afford.
4. Buy a wristwatch that is pleasing to you and that is likely to remain so long term. Don't make your decision hastily.
5. Avoid unconventional metals such as platinum, white or rose gold. For an expensive timepiece, yellow gold is often the best choice.
6. Buy a wristwatch that you intend to wear without subjecting it to rough treatment. There are wristwatches especially made for extreme conditions, but not many of them are of long lasting value.
7. Remember that few people are knowledgeable enough to purchase watches as an investment or even as collectibles.
8. It is usually better (and cheaper) to buy a high quality wristwatch and keep it for a long time, rather than having to continually purchase others because the preceding ones have failed to live up to your expectations.
9. Remember that a good timepiece is always worth its cost and that quality is never cheap. This is the price you pay for the joy of ownership.
10. Always aim to buy proven, tried and true technology. Quite a few of the newer designs and creations that have reached the consumer market have turned out to be failures.
11. Whenever possible, purchase a valuable wristwatch directly from the factory showroom or from a reputable accredited retailer.
12. Refrain from buying a more complicated wristwatch whose additional functions you have no definite need for.

13. Find out where the nearest service center for the brand you're interested in is located.
14. Finally, buy a high quality timepiece that would be considered a valuable heirloom by your descendants and enjoy wearing it for many years. Good luck and good hunting! ■

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190 is August 21, 2011

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15

The Meeting starts at 1:15

PROGRAM

"High End Wristwatches"

Presented by Ron Kubitsky

**"Ron will take us through the world
of the "Upper" class of watches"**

SHOW & TELL

**"Ch 75's mini mart purchases or
other items you would like to share"**



CLASSIFIED PAGE

This page is dedicated to advertising for Chapter 190 members. It is, of course, free to members.

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E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

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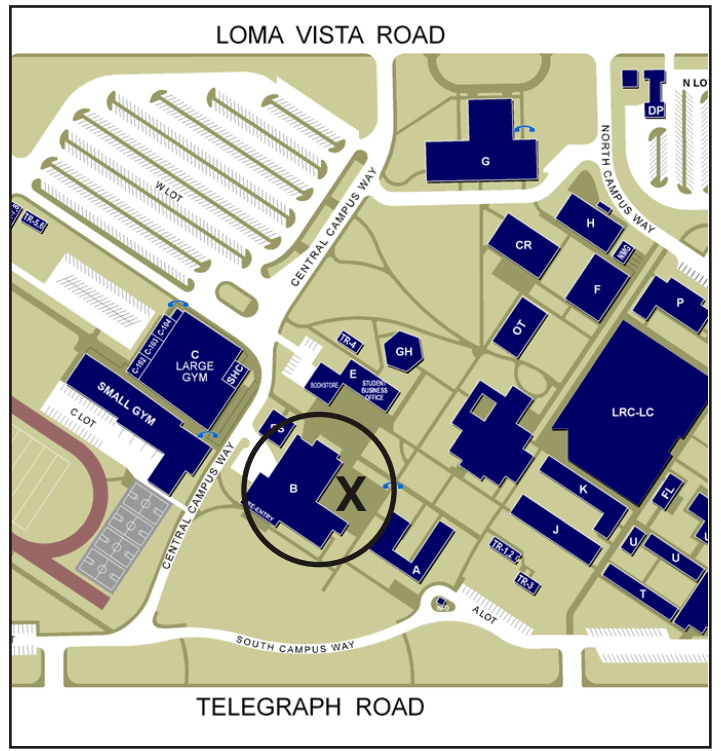
Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca.

Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.)

Tel. 805-650-8800

The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
 We will meet in the cafeteria on the Ventura College campus. The cafeteria is located in building "B", east of the gym and athletic field.



August 2011 Issue

NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 21



Chrono Times
 If Undeliverable return To:
 17738 Superior St. Unit 21
 Northridge, CA 91325