

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE LOCALS:

THE ORANGE COUNTY PEN CLUB

By Matthew Greenberger



Left: Pen sales straight ahead. Snacks to the left. Ink testing in back. Pen people everywhere!

Below: Matthew Chen discusses nib tuning and stub grinding at the May 2022 meeting.

The Orange County Pen Club was born out of conversations at the San Francisco Pen Show in 2019. Pen people from Orange County found each other and griped about Southern California traffic, and realized that our area has grown enough that there was no reason for all of us to trek up to LA to meet with fellow pen enthusiasts. I had previously helped modernize the Southern California Pen Collector Club, the "OG" pen club, by making a website so we could be found and people could sign up for email notifications. So it was straightforward for me to quickly grab a new domain name and whip up a basic website for a new Orange County group while waiting at SFO for my flight home from the show.

Unlike some other clubs profiled in the *Pennant*, we have no traditions and no history. We are a newer group, first meeting in September 2019. Despite the break due to Covid, the club list and meeting attendance keep growing. We are almost universally transplants to the area, and the vast majority of Orange County is no older than the ballpoint pen era. There are no attics or basements in our homes to collect old family items. We are unlikely to find fountain pens at estate sales. But we have managed to find each other! We have members who collect vintage pens, members who are mainly fountain pen users, and ink aficionados. Some have been involved in organized collecting for years. Mostly, we have people who were surprised just to find a group for like-minded pen enthusiasts. There is a healthy overlap with the So Cal Pen Club and many members attend meetings of both groups.

There are no dues. Everyone is welcome. If you want to "join," it is best to contact the club via the website OCpenclub.com and you will be added to the email list. We also have a Facebook group,

Orange County (CA) Pen Club, where members can easily connect with local pen enthusiasts.

Meetings take place on Saturdays from noon to 3 pm every two to three months. The room has areas set up for different interests. A popular feature is the ink testing table. Members are encouraged to bring inks and leave samples, and all are free to take samples. There is always a table with pens for sale (and sometimes other items like ink, paper, etc.). We are fortunate to have a member who brings his machine to modify and adjust nibs at the meeting. And of course, there are snacks and beverages. Pizza arrives about 1 pm. After lunch, there is usually a brief presentation on a pen, ink, or stationery topic. And on many occasions, our local "Raffle King" might grace us with some random prizes. You could take home a new bottle of ink or notebook!

We'd love to meet you!

Matthew Greenberger organized the club and is the main contact. He can be reached at greenberger@yahoo.com.

