

# The Mainspring

A Monthly Publication from Southwestern Chapter 15  
of the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

January 2005

## Message from the President

Submitted by Benny Blanchard

Howdy folks,

Hope everyone had a good Christmas. I sure did, complete with lots of company and lots of good food. Another year has slipped by us and 2005 is here. I haven't had much luck finding watches or clocks to buy and it seems not very many are interested in purchasing anything. Maybe 2005 will bring more activity among watch and clock collectors.

REMEMBER, our chapter's first 1-day show will be in Gatesville on February 12. Hope everyone is planning to attend. Invite a friend or prospective member to this show. They don't have to be a member of NAWCC to attend these 1-day shows, just the price of admission is all that's required. And don't forget to bring "goodies" for the hospitality table. I'll be looking for you there.☺

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### GATESVILLE 1-DAY SHOW

February 12, 2005 8am-- 2 pm

**Location: Eastwood Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall** which is in the rear of the church. Covered loading and unloading.

**Admission: \$6 per person, with tables \$3 each,** admission includes breakfast foods, coffee and other goodies from the hospitality table.

**Lodging: First Choice: Best Western, Chateau Ville Motor Inn** at 2501 E. Main St (just across from Eastwood Baptist Church.) Telephone 1-888-451-4521. Call on Monday through Wednesday and ask for Tracy Barnes for a special discounted rate, or call Benny Blanchard at (254) 876-6587 to make reservations for you.

Second choice is the Holiday Inn Express at 111 N. Hwy 36 By-Pass. Telephone (254) 865-1207. No special rates here and expect rooms to be over \$15 more than other hotel.

Another tip on hotel reservations: make them early! Because of the prison system in Gatesville hotel rooms tend to fill up quickly on weekends due to out-of-town visitors for the inmates.☺

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## Taking a tumble for clock cleaning

Last newsletter asked "what do rocks and clocks have in common?" I actually had some folks call and wonder what I meant. It was a teaser for the following.

Being in the business of clock repair I don't often miss a chance to look at a new tool or technique. This month's selection for discussion is **rock tumblers** used for horological cleaning and polishing. The jury is still out based on the people I've talked with, but the debate is very interesting.

I want to encourage those who use rock tumblers for cleaning or have used them in the past to share their experiences. Write the editor; I'll report your submissions in a later issue. In the mean time I'm aware of at least 2 of our San Antonio members who have recently purchased one and are in the midst of their own testing and investigations.

What got this rolling (so to speak) was a demonstration I saw from a retail shop here in San Antonio. I saw a common Seth Thomas #89 time and strike movement placed into a tumbler for 30 minutes. The results were not outstanding, in my opinion for the brass plates. What did impress me was the effect on the steel posts, screws and arbors. It was MUCH better than an ultrasonic

*continued on page 2*

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would ever do and looked like it had been buffed out, polished or reblued.

In addition there is a substantial cost comparison. A new 12 pound tumbler set up which is adequate to easily handle most time and strike movements and at least some of the smaller three train movements costs about \$160 not including cleaning fluids and abrasive media. A comparable size new ultrasonic is about \$550. The job certainly takes longer with a tumbler set up. You be the judge. Let me hear from you. ☺

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### ***A Message from the Vice President***

*Submitted by Jeff Beehler*

Just a short note to let everyone know that planning for the Regional is coming right along, but I have not had one phone call or e-mail from anyone waning to help, other than from committee Chairmen and their workers. Come on people it is your Regional. It will only be as good as you make it. If you cannot donate time perhaps there is still a place for you to serve. We are asking for donations for door prizes. These items need to be clock or watch

***...I have not had one phone call from anyone wanting to help...***

related: clocks, watches, tools, books, etc. These can be used items or perhaps a project clock or watch that you won't finish anyway. These will be exciting gifts for

people and you will be recognized for donating them. Someone has already donated a grandfather clock. So let's all pitch in and make this the best regional ever. If you care to donate a door prize contact Joan Jensen, Ron Davidson or myself. ☺

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### ***Upcoming Shows and Events***

● **February 12, 2004**

***1 Day Show, Gatesville, TX  
see details on page 1***

● **February 21, 2004**

***1 Day show, Houston, TX  
hosted by Chapter 139***

● **March 4-5, 2005**

***Lone Star Regional, Mesquite TX, hosted by  
Chapter 124***

● **April 15-16, 2005**

***Great Southwestern Regional, Kerrville TX,  
hosted by Chapter 15. Make your plans now to  
help and attend.***

● **September 2005**

***One Day Show in Wharton, watch for details.  
Hosted by Chapter 15 ☺***

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### **Your Current Chapter Officers:**

**President: Benny Blanchard**

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**Director at Large: Ted Orban**

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## Member News

✳️ Pat Murphy, long time member, past President of Chapter 15, NAWCC fellow, clock collector and repairer passed December 29, 2004 in San Antonio. Services were January 6 also in San Antonio. So many people have many wonderful stories about Pat and his clocks. He will be remembered and missed.

✳️ We extend a sincere note of sympathy to Laura Beehler on the loss of her mother Christmas morning.

✳️ If you missed the open house/shop at Richard Cox's in Irving on January 2 you missed some fine equipment, a wonderful clock collection, approximately 200 fun people and some good food.

## Classified Ads

CLOCK GEARS, BARRELS, PINIONS  
ARBORS AND ESCAPE WHEELS  
All made to order from your sample

### H.O. GEAR SERVICE

"I do what it takes"

H.O. Gear Service	For UPS Delivery
P.O. Box 103	185 Pin Oak Drive
Malakoff, TX 75148	Mabank, TX 75156
(903) 451-3036	Howard C. Vaughn Sr.
Member NAWCC Since 1974	

### 100 Clocks for sale by Ben Fulbright

I have recently acquired three small collections of clocks which will be offered for sale in Booth 1000 of the Alvin Antique Center, 2500 South Loop 35 (35 By Pass) in Alvin on January 14, 15 and 16. Alvin is about 25 miles south of Houston on Highway 35. The Alvin Antique Center is about two miles south of the intersection of 35 Bypass and Highway 6. There will be almost 100 clocks (40 Alarms, Pendulettes, etc) all offered "AS IS" and as project or restorable clocks. Also included are Viennas, Grandfathers, Walls, Wood-Works, Shelves, Kitchens, Mantels, French, German, and American. By and large these clocks have not been seen in this area, at least in a long time. Hours for the Antique Center are 10-6, Friday and Saturday, and 12-5 Sunday. Phone number for directions: (281) 388-0537. There will be no early sales. Call Ben Fulbright at (713) 408-9840 for more details.☺

## Wanted

### Ithaca Calendar Clocks

Looking to purchase  
Complete Clocks, Basket  
Cases, Movements, Dials,  
Empty Cases or Ithaca  
Parts

Please Contact:

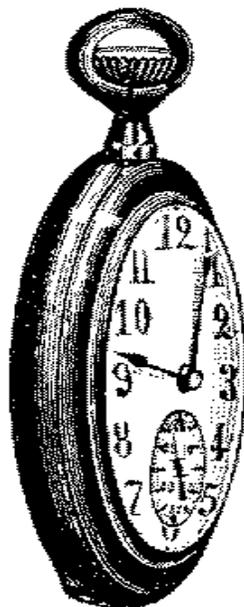
Jeff Beehler  
210-659-3205  
lajetx@satx.rr.com

## NOTICE 2005 Ad Rates

As of January 1, 2005 the charge for insertions within this newsletter will run at a rate of: **\$29.30 per column inch** for one calendar's years worth of insertions. Questions, art and/or copy should be mailed to the Editor.

## A "tip" for watchmakers

Submitted by Bruce Graham



Sometimes having the correct tool makes an impossible job almost easy. If you have problems with traditional pivot drills, like when repivoting a 4<sup>th</sup> wheel arbor, try a set of carbide twist drill bits. They last longer than HSS drills and go through steel like nobody's business. Harbor Freight carries an assortment of 50 drills for \$12.99 with sizes from #80 to 3/8 inch. Check out their website at <http://www.harborfreight.com> and enter 34640 as the item number. They also have a 20 bit assortment under item number 44824 with sizes .032 to .128 inch. And finally, don't forget to take the temper out of the steel before drilling, even with carbide bits. Take care.☺

## Final Dues Reminder

If you **don't** see "2005" or higher in the upper right corner of the mailing label that came with this newsletter we have not received your 2005 chapter dues. A 2005 member listing will be published soon. Make sure you're in it. Details for renewal are in the application on Page 4.☺

Chapter 15 Membership Application

New Application / Renewal (circle one)

Membership dues are \$6 per year. Dues are payable by December 31 each year. If joining initially after July 1st dues are \$3 for first year. You must be a current and paid member of NAWCC to join a chapter. You may belong to more than one chapter at a time.

Please print or type

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Horological Interests \_\_\_\_\_

NAWCC Member# \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CHAPTER 15, NAWCC

Enclose with remittance and send to:

Jerry Brazil

26766 Fawn Mountain Road

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

(210) 698-6665 [eggman@beecreek.net](mailto:eggman@beecreek.net)

Highlights from this Issue:

- √ details on Gatesville 1-day show
- √ "tips" for Watchmakers
- √ rock tumblers for clock cleaning???
- √ Kerrville Regional...get involved



Richard and friends January 2

**Southwestern Chapter 15**  
**26766 Fawn Mountain Road**  
**Fair Oaks Ranch, Tx 78015**

*Address correction requested*