

The Mainspring

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

October 2005

Member Location Update

As of the printing of this newsletter the NAWCC National website still knew of members that had not been located after the recent hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Please go to their site <http://www.nawcc.org/special/found.htm> and check it out. If you know anything about the whereabouts of these members please contact either the NAWCC Headquarters in Columbia PA directly or one of our Chapter 15 Officers.☺

Donations

While our chapter is not set up to accept or distribute donations we want to encourage our members to donate to helpful and legitimate organizations such as the Red Cross and many others who can. Help as you would like to be helped.☺

A message from the Vice President *submitted by Ted Orban*

Just wanted to write a quick note that the planning for next April's Great Southwestern Regional has started and is progressing well. I am looking for volunteers for committee chairmen and to help out in various capacities. Please call or send an e-mail (see page 4 for addresses). I am looking forward to seeing all of you at what should be a very successful Regional. Also, now is the time for you to make any suggestions for educational programs that you would like to see. Send me your ideas!☺

Chapter Meeting *Saturday, October 22,* *San Antonio,* *10AM to 12 noon*

Our October chapter meeting will be held in San Antonio at the shops and facilities of **Clocks of San Antonio!**. **The address is: 15669 San Pedro (that's the north west side of Highway 281 North and the Brookhollow Ave exit.)**

Telephone number is (210) 495-8463. Please come and participate in the first of a series of presentations / discussions on **Unusual and Wonderful clocks.** It is our thought that many members may not have seen or even heard of some of the wonderful pieces that make clock collecting so exciting. Come and join in, share your experience with others. Bring your questions, your interest and your support. Meeting is free, bring visitors. Coffee and some goodies also provided.☺

Membership News

- Shirley Secor reports that Maxine Walker fell and broke her hip and that Jane Ballard had a aneurysm in one leg. Both are out of the hospital and recovering.
- Jack Duke in San Antonio is selling some of his collection in anticipation of a move. Call him at (210) 434-3049 if you are interested. (Editors note sorry for the wrong number last month.)

Warning:
Reproductions Ahead
submitted by Editor
Volume 2

When last we left we were talking about how easy it is to be fooled by the many reproduction movements and parts out there. Many of these materials are of exceptional quality and often unless a buyer is very familiar with a specific model it's very difficult to tell an original from a reproduction. I want to reiterate that these are so good in fact that it's quite possible for a well meaning seller to offer a reproduction and not know it. So in this installment we discuss:

What's a collector to do?

1. First, do your homework, and keep your wits about you when you see that "deal" you can't believe you just found. Look very closely at the detail; know the maker and model you are buying. Specifically look closely at the figure, movement mounts, the gong, glass mounts in a wooden door, and the paper. These are a few examples where you often find a noticeable variance from the original.

2. Next look closely at the grain and the type of wood used. Was this supposed to be in Oak, Walnut, Pine, or Teak? Smell is another tell-tale sign. On the Ithaca double dial reproduction I mentioned last month I noticed when I first opened the case door a smell I recognized as Teak; not old and not American. A definite give away.

3. Don't rely on the appearance and finish of brass or bronze to show age. This is where fakers do a truly remarkable job. The ability to show age on brass must be an easy task these days! If you notice a well designed movement don't stop there, look at all the details. Could this really be 100 to 150 years old, or is it in just too good of shape?

4. Remember the old adage: if it's too good to be true, it probably is... Is the price just too low compared to what you know it should be worth? Is this too good of a deal? Is it coming from a buyer you wouldn't expect to have this quality of piece? Often what you see are upper medium to high dollar collectibles. There's no use in faking a run-of-the-

mill model.

Now let me say again. This is not all bad. Some very nice reproductions are out there and an individual can add some very interesting timepieces to his or her collection. Just do so knowingly. And when you are in the position to sell this piece be completely up front with your buyer.

It wasn't my intention to cover all details about his subject, but rather to provide a "heads up" on a matter we will be seeing more and more of in the coming years. If you have an interesting story or tip or would just like to weigh in on this subject write to the editor and I'll keep the story alive for another issue. ☺

Upcoming Shows and Events

(watch our website for more details)

● **October 15**

One day show in Dallas hosted by Chapter 124
see <http://www.chapter124.com> for details

● **October 22**

Chapter meeting and Presentation on Unusual
Clocks. Hosted by Chapter 15. See page 1

● **November 12th**

One Day Show in Austin, See page 3
Hosted by Chapter 15 ☺

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

From the Chapter President

submitted by Jeff Beehler

Hope this letter finds you all safe, sound and well. Just a quick note to let you know that Ted, Jerry and I along with Ted's wife Ellis and Laura had a very nice meeting yesterday to discuss and plan the upcoming Regional. We also discussed upcoming workshops. Those of you interested in those will be very pleased. I am going to put in a "one time only plea" for volunteers for the Regional. It takes all of us to put on a good one..☺

Austin One Day Show

Our next one day show will be in Austin, November 12 from 9 AM to noon at **Busters BBQ/VFW #4443**. It's located at 3927 Ranch Road (RR) 620 South. This is near the intersection of RR 620 and US Highway 71. Coffee and cookies will be provided. You bring the clocks, watches, tools, equipment and other "stuff." ☺

Bench Repair Tip

submitted by Bruce Graham

A work surface pad is one item I would recommend to anyone working on watches or small clocks. I bought my pad at an architect supply company (Miller Blueprint Co.) It is intended to be used as a surface for drafting tables. I use a thick 3' by 2' pad that is a matt light green color and is much softer than the typical hardwood workbench top. The drafting pad can "absorb" small cuts and pin holes without significant degradation, so it can take some abuse. I find the surface also holds small parts better so if a tiny screw or wheel jumps out of your tweezers, it doesn't go skittering across a hard surface into oblivion. Finally, the light green surface reduces glare and is easy on the eyes while working for extended periods of time.☺

Editors note: *Many thanks to Bruce, who has been diligent in his writing and ideas for this newsletter. If you have questions or suggestions about his topics you can contact him at brg404@yahoo.com.*

Chapter 15 Membership Application

New Application / Renewal (circle one)

Membership dues are \$10 per year. Dues are payable by December 31 each year. If joining initially after July 1st dues are \$5 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:

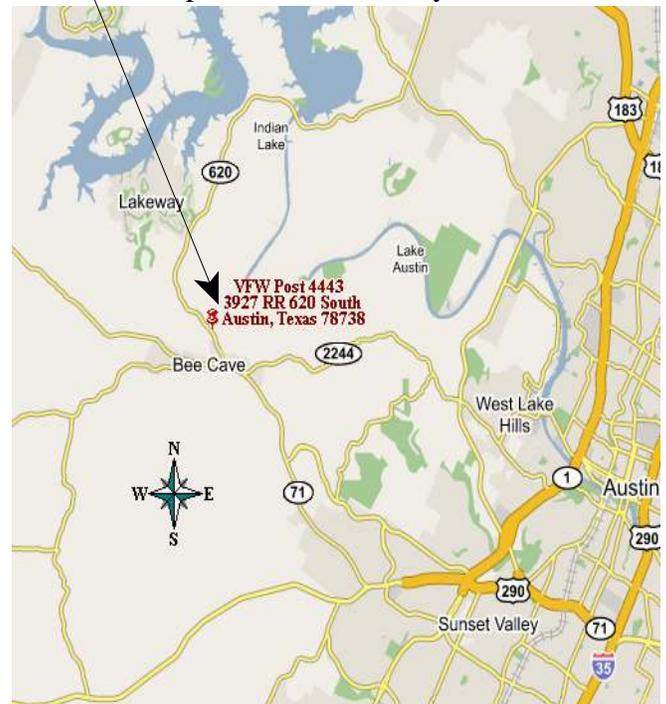
Jerry Brazil

26766 Fawn Mountain Road

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

(210) 698-6665 eggman@satx.rr.com

Map to Austin One Day Show



New Horology Website:

<http://www.horologysource.com> Check this out. It has over 3,700 links to other websites about history, repair and restoration, horological science, books, organizations, museums, watch and clockmakers, and on and on..... This is the largest list of it's kind currently on the net and is owned, operated and hosted by our own webmaster Ted Orban. This is a very useful resource and very nicely done. Try it, you'll like it! Yes I know there are some of our members that don't have internet access, but over 65% do! ☺

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