



## President's Message

Gene Galbraith

The officers of Southwestern Chapter 15 have planned a full schedule of activities for the coming year. Every board member is involved in the preparation and the execution of these plans. You, the membership, should actively support these efforts by attending and offering your thanks to the ones who are giving of their time and resources on behalf of Chapter 15.

Furthermore, the officers solicit your suggestions and ideas for making the activities better and attractive for new members. Encourage your clock and watch collector friends to join NAWCC and the Chapter. There are many ways that you and your friends can get involved in Chapter activities.

Volunteer to work with the officers. Learn what it takes to run a successful Chapter. Let us know of your special interests and whether you would like to prepare for a position on the board or in regional activities. Everyone can have a job and feel that they are making a significant contribution to Southwestern Chapter 15.

### Board Officers and Contact Information

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**Director of One Day Marts – Ron Davidson**

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## **CHAPTER 15 ONE DAY MART**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2007**

**8 AM – 1 PM**

**COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**231 E. NORTH LOOP ROAD**

**San Antonio, Texas 78216-1896**

Admission: \$5.00 each

Tables: \$ 5.00 each

There will be 30 tables available  
on a first come first serve basis.

Have a horological item you want to show off?  
Bring it for our “Show and Tell” session!

Coker United Methodist Church is located near the San Antonio International Airport, west of highway 281, between Bitters and Nakoma.

### **Coming North on 281:**

Go north on 281 and take the Bitters Road exit. Move to the far left lane to take the turnaround. Go south on access road.

You will pass Burlington's, Sam's Club, etc. Turn right on North Loop Road **immediately** past Shearer Hills Baptist Church. (There is a sign for Coker UMC). The church is approximately ½ miles down E. North Loop Road on the right-hand side.

### **From 1604:**

The church is located on the west side of Hwy. 281 between Bitters Road and Nakoma Drive exits. Take 281 south (towards downtown). Exit Bitters Road; go through the light at Bitters and continue south on the access road. You will pass Burlington's, Sam's Club, etc. Turn right on North Loop Road **immediately** past Shearer Hills Baptist Church. (There is a sign for Coker UMC). The church is approximately ½ miles down E. North Loop Road on the right-hand side.

### **From Austin:**

Take IH 35 South to Loop 1604 West. Follow 1604 W 8 miles to US 281 South: then follow the directions above from 1604.

The Mart will be in the Gym.

*Note: The Church Staff has requested that once unloaded you move your vehicle to the lower parking lot. Just follow the black top road.*

## American or British? Tall Case Clock Tips

### *Keys to Identity on Pre-1900 Clocks*

by Jim DuBois

I am not an expert on much of anything but I can speak to some features of tallcase clocks, having owned several dozens, and having inspected, repaired, kibitized, imported, exported, and kicked tires on a few thousand more....

American grandfather clock cases nearly always have substantially more wood in their construction than those from England, Ireland, Scotland (also most French clocks and those from other countries as well, although these are not addressed in this discussion.). The backboard especially, but also the case sides of American made cases will be 3/4" or thicker in 99% or more examples. My experience is actually nearer to 100% as I have only seen one truly American case that was not of this thick material. (It happened to have been a New Jersey tallcase, heavily veneered by a famous furniture maker, signed, labeled inside the door, sitting in a museum, authenticated by true experts, so unquestionably "right".

I have never owned, inspected, or seen an English, Scottish, or Irish clock with consistently thick wood (sides, backboard, feet, base sides, trunk, etc.). I will refer to these as "English" henceforth in this discussion.

I have seen and/or owned several examples of English (predominately 2nd quarter 19th century) where the backboard was of 3/8" thick (or slightly thinner) material and the case sides were of 1/4" wood. The whole case was almost more illusion than clock. One in particular weighed only about 15 pounds. I have learned to "never say never," but thick versus thin is very close to the "never" category. I have had a fair number of English clocks with backboards of maybe as much as 5/8", but never one 3/4" or thicker. On occasion an American case may have a backboard slightly thinner than 3/4" (but not much!), but that too is quite uncommon.

If one is to establish the origin of a tall clock one should be able to determine the difference between English pine (or deal) and American pine. English pine/deal and American pine are as different as night and day in almost every case. The backboard of virtually any tall clock will nearly always be made of a secondary wood. Secondary wood in an English case, especially its backboard (and the sides and front if veneered), will more often than not have a fair amount of knots in the wood. One quick indicator of clock origin, which can be determined from its secondary woods, is that English secondary woods will frequently if not always have a yellow/greenish cast to the wood and the American secondary woods will have a more brownish/tan tint. Also, generally American pine is generally a lot less knotty and has a tighter grain pattern than the English pine/deal.

On very rare occasion, one may find an oak backboard in an early clock. This oak backboard will be generally very thin and this can be considered a pretty firm indicator of English origin.

Seatboards and their material of construction can be good clues as well. While establishing originality of a movement to a seatboard, and then that seatboard to a case is not a treated as a subject in this discussion, suffice it say: American pine seatboards are usually found in American cases and English pine/deal seatboards are usually found in English cases. English cases may, much more often than America cases, have seatboards of mahogany, oak, or some other hardwood, although this is pretty unusual.

*Continued next column*

.....continued

Backboards in English tall clocks may be comprised of several glued up pieces of wood. Much more commonly, American tall clocks will have a backboard of a single piece of wood. Please note the use of the terms "never" and "Always are not applicable here. American clocks may have glued up backboards, but they will still be of American woods and not English woods. Often you will see English clocks which have a stretcher applied in an attempt to keep the backboard flat and straight, sometimes original constructions--sometimes repairs. Knowing the difference is useful. Stretchers are rarely found in American clocks, at least originally.

The following is a pretty good set of rules of thumb concerning origin of a tall clock, not absolutes or hard and fast rules, but in general they apply to tall clocks made essentially prior to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

1. Case style from 10 feet away should be your first clue, although this was not addressed in this discussion.
2. Maker/Dealer name on dial and City/Location as to where made? Again, this was not addressed in this discussion.
3. Seatboard Style and Material? (Oak, Deal, English Pine or American Pine?), per discussion above.
4. Style of movement; English vs. American, or a different country? Again, this has not been addressed.
5. Thickness of case wood? (Topic of this discussion.)
6. Material used as secondary woods? (Topic covered in this discussion.)
7. Valid provenance? (Much so-called provenance is frequently wrong, written and otherwise, so be careful!)
8. Wormholes? This usually a sign of English origins. Woodworms are significantly less common stateside as in damp old England. However this is not addressed here.
9. Have there been any repairs? How well are they executed? Not addressed here.
10. How does the clock appear overall, case, dial, hands, etc.? Not addressed here.

### Show and Tell

Bring that special item and get up and tell every one about it at the upcoming One Day Mart in San Antonio on June 16. What to say: well, maybe it's the BEST, or the WORST, or it's something you hope to sell, or something you've just bought to show off. Share your knowledge or ask a question. It's all up to you. Be there!

### Wonderful and Unusual Clocks - part deux

Back by popular demand is a Power Point show and discussion on some really great clocks. Some of these you may have seen, and others I really doubt you have. This time we'll do it in Austin on the 3d Saturday in July, that's the 21<sup>st</sup>. So put it on your calendar and come out and enjoy the discussion. By the way this one will have a couple real clocks on exhibit that you will not want to miss. I'm betting very few have ever seen one like this.

Watch next month's newsletter for more details.

## Events to Remember

- 📅 NAWCC - National Meeting  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 📅 NAWCC - Chapter 15 One Day Mart  
Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> (See info in this newsletter)
- 📅 NAWCC – Chapter 15 Meeting  
Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>  
Austin, Texas
- 📅 NAWCC - Texas All Chapters Regional  
August 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>  
Houston, Texas
- 📅 Wharton One Day Meet  
September 15<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 – 12:00  
Methodist Hall on Boling Highway  
Open House at Secors After Meet
- 📅 NAWCC – MKOA Regional  
September 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>  
Wichita, Kansas
- 📅 NAWCC - Five State Collectors Regional  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Amarillo, Texas

## **A Plea from your Editor**

(Ok, Two Pleas from your Editor)

First I want to publically thank long time member Ben Fulbright for sending me material for this Newsletter - in fact he has already sent more for the next one! And of course thanks to Jim DuBois for allowing us to use his valuable information on Long Case Clocks. Information such as this can prevent costly mistakes.

This is your Newsletter and I hope that you understand that in both senses – it is for you - and it can and should be by you. The amount of expertise that exists in this Chapter is immense. If you can't write an article or send in a Bench Tip, I bet you know one that someone passed on to you. Please share, because as much as some members know, there is no member that knows it all (some come close).

Ok, now I am dragging out the soapbox. If you do not have email or are not at all cyber-savy, or if you are already reading this on your computer, you are excused from this rant. The rest of you need to know that it is not cheap putting a paper copy of this in your mailbox. You know postage is up, then there is paper, printing, and such. It is getting to where your \$10 dues just might cover the cost of you getting this – leaving no funds for the One-Days, Regionals, or other activities you enjoy. Now I see by the roster a lot of names that I am mailing a copy to that have an email address – come on, drop me a line and let me use it. Contact me at:

[newsletter@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:newsletter@nawcc-chapter15.org)

## Chapter 15 Membership Application

(Circle one) **New - Renewal**

Memberships Dues are \$10 per year. Dues are payable by December 31 each year. If joining initially after July 1<sup>st</sup>, dues are \$5 for the first year. You must be a current and paid up member of the NAWCC to join a chapter. You may belong to as many chapters as you wish.

Please PRINT or Type

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Make Check Payable to: NAWCC Chapter 15

Enclose with this form and send to:

Pat Holloway, Secretary Chapter 15

1105 Lafayette Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

*Already a member? Get someone involved!*

## **Horological Hints**

When replacing glass in clock cases, remember that the glass is generally thinner (~ 0.075") than windowpane glass (~0.10"). Get your stock from someone who sells picture frame glass. Better still, if you can find old picture frames at garage sales or flea markets for cheap, you can have old glass for the old clocks. Using glass that is too thick can warp hinges, bind on hand shafts, and just plain look wrong.

Got a screw hole on a clock case that is just a little too big now? One solution is to try the Teflon tape that plumbers use to get that extra grip. This is also an easily reversible repair for those "special" clocks.

# Advertisements

## *The* Southwest Museum of **CLOCKS & WATCHES**

Donate to the museum and get a tax deduction.

Mail checks to:

SMCW,

P.O. Box 91852

Austin, TX 78709.

Donate or loan clocks and watches.

Contact: [genegalbraith35@aol.com](mailto:genegalbraith35@aol.com)

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## Southwest School of **CLOCK REPAIR**

1805-B West 35<sup>th</sup> Street

Austin, Texas 78703

(512) 658-3853

Learn the art of clock repair  
as a hobby or career opportunity.

Classes are forming for this fall.

Contact Gene Galbraith at:

[genegalbraith35@aol.com](mailto:genegalbraith35@aol.com)

### **Treasurer's Report**

The General Fund has a balance of \$8143.00 with no outstanding debits or credits. The only expenditure in the past month was for Liability Insurance at \$500 for the year. The Regional fund, after all expenses paid, now has a balance of \$3,539.36.

Within the next two weeks all Chapter funds will be transferred to our new Treasurer, Neill Day. So for any and all of your Chapter financial business, contact Neill.

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