

Visit Your NAWCC Chapter 15 Website at www.nawcc-chapter15.org/ - new information updates!!

Great Southwestern Regional Update

April 2008 is sooner than you think! The contracts with the New Braunfels Civic Center and Faust Hotel are signed and the deposits paid. Now comes the hard part. WE DESPERATELY NEED VOLUNTEERS to head or serve on numerous committees, including Finance, Registration, Mart, Program, Exhibit, Banquet, Security, Hospitality, and Publicity.

Our mart floor space is 50% larger than we had in Kerrville, and I won't be happy unless our table rentals and attendance increase by 50% as well. Ambitious? I don't think so. We have a prime location, convenient to almost all of our membership and within a reasonable drive from Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth. We have a small, but dedicated core of volunteers in this group who have transformed Chapter 15 into a vibrant organization with great programs every month and active member participation. I noticed that all but one of the volunteers at the Waco one-day show this month are members of Chapter 15 (several are also members of Chapter 124).

A NAWCC national officer has already volunteered to present a class at our regional on a topic where he is the leading expert (stay tuned--no hints this month).

I hope to hear from many of you very soon with offers to help out with our Regional at this great new location!

To volunteer, please contact me by email (VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org), phone at (512) 788-5125, or mail at (124 Silk Tree Lane, Round Rock TX 78664).

Mike Williams, Vice President
General Chairman, Great Southwestern Regional

BIG ONE DAY IN WACO!!! **SECOND ANNUAL TRI-CHAPTER ONE DAY SHOW**

Just a reminder that Saturday, October 20th is the date for the Tri-Chapter One Day Show in Waco. The meeting will be held in The Texas Ranger Hall (Knox Hall) located at the Brazos River, Exit 335B, IH-35. Doors open at 8AM. Cost of the show is \$10.00, which includes a table. Tables are first come, first served.

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We could still use some help in the registration and unloading area, and with hospitality items. We have the coffee and some of the breakfast items promised. However we request that each person attending bring a hospitality item.

If you would like to volunteer your services for registration or unloading or providing Hospitality items, contact:

Bill Andrle (Chapter 124) at: dandrle@texnet.net
or: 254-829-1559

Several Waco area motels and hotels are listed on the website at

www.nawcc-chapter15.org/images/WacoHotels2007.pdf.

I can also make the list available upon request. But don't wait; this will be the Baylor-Texas football weekend.

Ron Davidson ronsclocks@earthlink.net

Clock classes for the New Year

submitted by Jerry Brazil

We have the opportunity to offer two clock repair related classes to chapter members during the first few months of the upcoming new year. **Phil Gregory** has offered to teach his *Reverse Tablet Painting course* or *Dial Painting course* and **Mary Bess Grisham** has offered to teach her class on the *Restoration of the Self Wind Clock*. These would be wonderful opportunities for our chapter members. Both classes will be designed around a session of two full days in Austin or San Antonio. Specific dates and locations will be nailed down once we have commitments from a minimum of 8 people who wish to attend.

Unlike the classes now offered in Dallas we will have the instructor come to us and won't have to go to them. However, this involves expenses the chapter will incur relating to the instructor's travel, room, board and of the rental of an appropriate facility in which to hold these classes. We estimate that the cost per student will be \$200 for the two day session.

If you are interested in attending either please notify me as soon as possible. We will hold these options open until November 1. By then we will have to make reservations and lock in dates and locations. So let me know soon by e-mail (eggman@satx.rr.com) or phone (210) 698-6665, or just talk with me.

Anniversary or 400 Day Clocks & The Final Adjustment

Notes for Clockmakers from Gene Galbraith

The ever popular anniversary clock is such a romantic timepiece, representing the celebration of cherished events; weddings, birthdays, Mother's Days, and milestones in the lives of special people. Millions of these clocks were produced and shipped to America. It was the perfect gift from men and women serving in the armed forces during and following the Second World War. Folks loved the gentle revolving pendulum and were often mesmerized by its perpetual motion.

Somewhere along the way, however, the clock is incorrectly handled and it stops—never to run again, unless a competent clockmaker can be found to bring it back to life - easier said than done. The 400 day clock is treacherous ground for the untrained repairman to tread.

Charles Terwilliger was one of the early experts in the repair of 400 day clocks. His widely known repair guide, first published in 1953, should be in the library of every clockmaker. I am fortunate to have an autographed copy of his 1980 edition.

When these clocks come across my bench, I am amazed at how much abuse some of them have suffered. Usually the polished brass has become corroded and tarnished. The suspension spring, if present, looks like a corkscrew. Quite possibly the mainspring is either broken, frozen in congealed grease, or powerless due to being set in the barrel. Everything that can go wrong with a 400 day clock often does. There are a few of these clocks that defy restoration to running condition. Sometimes it is because a previous repairman has so botched the job that it may be better to polish up the clock and set it on a shelf as a beautiful remembrance even though its pendulum is stilled.

All the usual steps in the overhaul of clocks are required for these clocks. However, there comes the time when everything has been done that should be done and it is time to hang the pendulum and start it in motion. And, herein lies the most sensitive part of getting the clock to run more than ten minutes. The clock must be put in beat if it is to sustain its running time. The clock is in beat when a point on the pendulum revolves equally in both directions. This is where the emotion of hate may emerge.

Set up a beat amplifier, like the Radio Shack model, and connect the clip to one of the plates. Rotate the pendulum one and ¼ turn. Listen for the tick in both directions of the rotation and place a marker on the clock base for each tick. Next, place a marker at the points where the overruns reverse direction. As the pendulum rotation settles into its normal pattern, correct the unequal

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overruns by adjusting the saddle to the right or left, depending on which is the shortest overrun.

This adjustment is made in very small increments. Move your markers to the new tick points and the points where the overruns reverse direction. Gradually you will see a pattern of equality between the ticks and the rotation reversals. Fine tune the saddle adjustments until all points are equal in relationship to each other. The clock is in beat.

President's Message from God

Gene Galbraith

Years ago I would sit in church and listen to the "Sermon from God" by the minister. I knew the sermon was from God because the minister said so. This always puzzled me until I heard my grandmother say, "Gene, God told me that you are called to be a preacher." Now my grandmother was a "godly woman," and I had great respect for her advice, but I had the notion that if God wanted me to be a preacher, He would just come right out and tell me directly. Well, either I was a little hard of hearing, or I had my mind set on other pursuits.

While I like to believe that I am on speaking terms with God, I hold those conversations in private and try not to confuse what God says with what my wife says. Sometimes my wife sounds like my grandmother when it comes to what I should or should not do.

All this nonsense and waste of column inches in the official newsletter of Chapter 15 may seem absurd, but in speaking to the membership of the Chapter, I reluctantly take on the responsibility of having to sermonize in order to spur the members into action. So, please heed these words of admonition which are written in the spirit of love and friendship toward all members.

Let it be resolved that you as members of the great Chapter 15 will do one or more of the following:

1. Let the Board of Directors know what you like or dislike about the way they are leading Chapter 15.
2. Share your thoughts on what kind of programs or workshops you would like to have presented.
3. Offer your services and/or expertise to the Chapter leadership voluntarily.
4. Donate funds, clocks, watches, or tools to the Chapter for specific purposes.
5. Recruit new members and be an example to them by working in the Chapter.
6. Pass along The MainSpring to your friends and encourage them to get involved.
7. Attend the meetings. They are meant for your enjoyment and education.

What would happen if everyone who reads this "Message from the President" would heed these gentle admonitions? Chapter 15 would be transformed instantly. Who will be the first to start the transformation? **You!**

Monthly Chapter Meeting

September 22, 2007

by Pat Holloway

The Chapter 15 monthly meeting was held September 22nd at the Coker United Methodist Church in San Antonio. About 25 members and guests were treated to fascinating program presented by Jerry Brazil.

As promised in last month's newsletter, we took an in-depth look at a Japanese Lantern clock, including the opportunity to see and enjoy a superb example dating back to the 1850's that stands over 6 feet tall. This clock is a prime example of "pre-Western timekeeping" and includes such features as twin crown wheels, a double foliot escapement system, an alarm and calendar, not to mention a beautiful, intricately formed Persimmon wood stand.

We learned that in pre-Western timekeeping, the daylight and the darkness were each divided into six equal parts. The length of time comprising these parts changes almost daily but are still called "hours" even though they do not reflect a period consistent to what we think of as an hour today. The clock includes two foliot escapements similar in appearance to a balance scale with weights that are moved in or out to regulate time. A pin at the six o'clock position on the count wheel triggers the change from one foliot for daylight to the second for darkness and vice versa. Rather than striking at the top of the hour as most of us are accustomed, this clock strikes at the midpoint of each "hour."

From the family crest on the face, sides and weight shells, this clock has been traced to the Tokugawa family in Edo (Tokyo), the ruling shogun family throughout all of Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868). This was a peak period of art and technology and items of this caliber demonstrating these skills were only created for the very wealthy. At the end of the Edo period there were major political and ideological changes and modernization of thinking, with these changes came an attitude of "out with the old and in with the new." Many of the prime examples of art and technology such as this clock were disposed of and made their way to the Western world.

Our thanks to Jerry for sharing the clock and the information he gleaned through hours of research. This was truly an informative and fascinating program.

Treasurer's Report

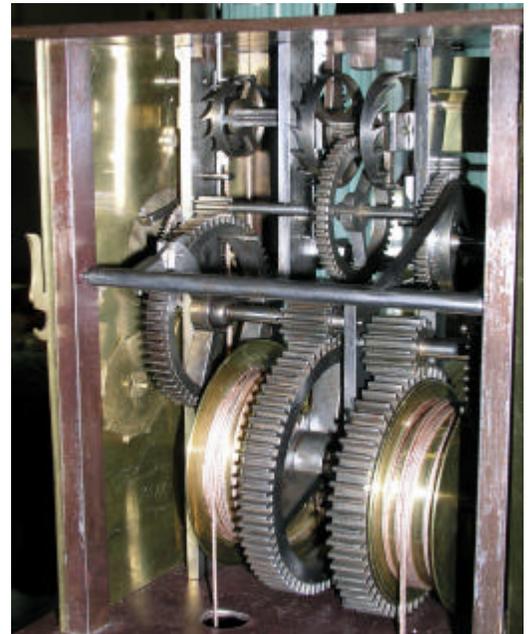
Neill Day, Chapter 15 Treasurer reports that the account balances on the last statements are:

Chapter Account - \$ 8214.58
Regional Account - \$ 3163.75

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Members Scott Clark and Ralph Henderson take a close look at this museum quality clock



Note the two large crownwheels for timekeeping
(Smaller crownwheel is for the alarm)

Save The Date

- ✂ **NAWCC - Five State Collectors Regional**
November 2nd – 3rd
Amarillo Civic Center
Amarillo, Texas
- ✂ **November Chapter 15 Workshop (rescheduled from September)**
November 17th, 10:00 – 12:00 am
San Antonio, Coker United Methodist Church

Advertisements

The Southwest Museum of CLOCKS & WATCHES



101 East San Antonio Street
Lockhart, TX 78644

For information:

genegalbraith35@aol.com

(512) 658-3853

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