



The MAIN SPRING

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

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

Great Southwestern Regional Update

NAWCC named John Hubby to be the national representative to our 2008 Great Southwestern Regional in April. John also volunteered to present a class on dating Gustav Becker clocks during the regional. Many of us were aware of John's expertise in 400 day clocks (especially Bulle), but he has also done considerable research on Gustav Becker. He can fill in the gaps where Kochmann was only able to "guesstimate" many of the 20th century manufacturing dates.

We are still desperately in need of volunteers to coordinate portions of the regional. Many hands can make for a light load, but one person can't put everything together without help. Have you seen an area from past regionals that needs attention? Do you have ideas on how to put together a program or banquet? Would you like to teach a class on a horological subject? Are you skilled at putting together classes and instructors? Do you have any experience in putting together a regional, a mart, or a program? Are you good at desktop publishing or publicizing an event? Do you have any good ideas on how to make this year's regional better than ever? If you can answer "yes" to any of these, then you are needed NOW to help plan the 2008 Great Southwestern Regional. We need to have a final copy of the schedule of events and registration form completed within the next few weeks so that we can publicize our regional in the NAWCC Bulletin early next year.

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

Hope to hear from you soon!
Mike Williams, Vice President
NAWCC Southwestern Chapter 15
General Chairman,
2008 Great Southwestern Regional

CLOCK REPAIR CLASS

San Antonio, Texas Nov 17, 2007

10:00 to 12:00

As my sister in Tennessee is fond of saying "*God will'in and the creek don't rise. I'll see you tomorrow at ten o'clock*" well in this case it is if the Salado Creek don't rise like last time we tried this, we will have a "round robin" clock repair class at the Coker Methodist Church in San Antonio. This should be an interesting and educational experience for all members and visitors alike. You will be able to take advantage of over 80 combined years of clock repair experience to answer your questions and get expert advice from these knowledgeable individuals. Jerry Brazil, Ron Davidson, Eldon Harris and Mike Webb will share their experience and expertise on the various aspects of bushings, pivot polishing, clock springs and tools. The time has been changed to accommodate out of town members, we will start promptly at 10:00AM

Please note that this is another one of our chapter educational activities where visitors are welcome, so bring along a family member or friend who may be curious about your clock addiction and introduce them to the wonderful world of clocks, horology and the NAWCC.

Scott Clark
Director of Workshops

Directions to the meeting site on the next page...

Treasurer's Report

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

Chapter Account - \$ 8212.58
Regional Account - \$ 1716.93

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING SITE

Coker United Methodist Church is located near the San Antonio International Airport, west of highway 281, between Bitters and Nakoma at 231 E North Loop Rd.

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.

Horological Tips

Need to remove rust from clock chains such as cuckoo clock chains? A good method is to put the chains and some naval jelly in a zip lock bag and massage. No muss on your hands and you can see what you are doing.

Need to get rid of the common pest in old wood, the Powder Post Beetle? The surest way to kill the adult, larvae, and eggs (all can be present in the wood) is to use Paradichlorobenzene - common moth crystals. Put one half teaspoon of Para in a plastic bag, put clock in the plastic bag, seal bag and hold that way for one week. No more beetles and won't harm the wood – but use in a ventilated space and don't get in the bag with the clock.

Freezing also works sometimes, but will not always kill the eggs and you may have to repeat the treatment to get them all. And sometimes it's hard to find a freezer for that grandfather clock.

President's Message

Gene Galbraith

Over time we sometimes lose our timing when it comes to timepieces. At my house a clock that is relatively close to the correct time is acceptable. The real problem is keeping the clocks wound whether they are driven by mainsprings or weights. My favorite clock is my old IBM self-winder that plugs into a wall outlet. It is weight driven and when the weights drop to a certain point, a switch is activated and a motor grinds away as the weights are lifted to start the cycle again. The clock is jewelers-regulator-quality and begs to be left alone as it faithfully does its duty. While I am reluctant to part with it, I realize that it deserves a wider audience of appreciative clock enthusiasts beyond a handful of family and friends. Therefore, I have decided to donate old faithful to **The Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches** located in Lockhart, Texas. There it will enjoy the admiration of hundreds of horologists and clock lovers who can truly appreciate the significance of an era of timekeeping less than a hundred years old. What's more, I can take a deduction for my tax return this year. I have other clocks and watches that I am donating to the **Museum**. There is my Seth Thomas No. 10 double dial, Ansonia General, Welch No. 5 regulator, 1830s English tall case, 1820s John Sawin Banjo, 1790s Morbier tall case, and a 1840s Black Forest Clock Organ with 72 flute pipes and 10 carat gold hands. This clock was once owned by P.T. Barnum. I have a few fine watches that I will also donate to the **Museum**.

I have come to realize that all my clocks are gathering dust in the confines of my home where I **do not** want the world coming to view them. What better place for them to be professionally cared for and appreciated than in the security of **The Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches**? Let's share our treasures with the whole world.

Reminder – Great Website

Our chapter is fortunate to have a very well designed web-site that is full of good information. If you ever need to know anything about chapter activities, it's there. Also there is history of the chapter, contact information for members, old newsletters, horological aids, and more. All at <http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org>

Waco One Day Show
October 20, 2007
Pat Holloway

The “BIG ONE DAY IN WACO!!! SECOND ANNUAL TRI-CHAPTER ONE DAY SHOW” headline from last month’s newsletter was definitely a sign of things to come.

Saturday, October 20th was the date for the Second Annual Tri-Chapter One Day Show in Waco. The meeting was held in The Texas Ranger Hall (Knox Hall) located at the Brazos River, Exit 335B, IH-35. Long before the doors were scheduled to open at 8 a.m., the crew was there to unload and set up for registration and hospitality. For the minimal cost of \$10.00 attendees got a table and all the breakfast food you could ever want - as well as hours of fun. The inclusion of a table in the cost of admission sure seemed to encourage people to bring out the goods. The mart tables were loaded with a wide variety of watches, clocks, books, horological tools and spare parts; along with clock-related craft and activity items for the young and the young at heart. There was a great variety with everything from beautiful examples of clocks and watches to those irresistible “projects”. Chapter President Gene Galbraith gave a very informative program on the “Falling Ball” Clock, a very unusual clock. The show also featured an It’s For Free table and a Silent Auction.

This year’s show was truly a joint effort of Chapters 15, 124 and 139, well represented by volunteers and attendees from throughout Texas and even a couple of surrounding states.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this second annual tri-chapter one day show a huge success through your volunteer efforts and by your attendance. We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at our next Chapter 15 meeting in San Antonio on November 17th and hearing more about your “finds” in Waco!

Editor’s Note:

Just a quick note that to remind you that those that have switched to the email version of this newsletter are now able to enjoy color pictures (when we have them). So far we have had about 20 folks changeover for a future saving of about \$200 to the chapter.

But there are a lot of you (with an email address) that still get a paper copy – with the boring black & white pictures.

Save the chapter money and get a thrill. I promise color pictures next month – for those of you on the email list.

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Save The Date

- ✍ **November Chapter 15 Workshop**
November 17th, 10:00 – 12:00 am
San Antonio, Coker United Methodist Church
- ✍ **NAWCC Chapter 15 One-Day Mart**
January 19th, 8:00 am – 12:00
Austin, Westover Hills Church of Christ
- ✍ **Lone Star Regional**
March 7th & 8th
Mesquite, Texas Mesquite Convention Center
- ✍ **Great Southwestern Regional**
April 18th & 19th
New Braunfels, Texas
New Braunfels Civic Center
- ✍ **NAWCC National Convention**
June 11th – 14th
Springfield, MO

The Southwest Museum of
CLOCKS & WATCHES



101 East San Antonio Street
Lockhart, TX 78644

For information:
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Donations are tax deductible.

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