

# 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/](http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org/) - new information updates!!  
Note that you can have your website listed on our website – it's free! You can have a small advertisement or horological link there for free! Free Web exposure, contact the Webmaster for this great benefit.

## Great Southwestern Regional Update

Decisions about our April 2008 (New Braunfels) regional agenda, schedule, programs, pricing, and publicity must be made THIS MONTH. As of this writing, I have only two volunteers to handle registration and photography at the regional, and two additional "generic" volunteers. The gap between the number of volunteers and our immediate need is profound!

Registration forms need to be distributed at the January one-day show in Austin and at the March Lone Star Regional. We are almost too late to advertise in the NAWCC Bulletin already. We can't advertise if we don't have any information to give people! Date and location simply aren't enough. We need a dynamic main program, attractive and interesting classes, and cost-effective publicity if this regional is to be a success.

I don't like making executive decisions without significant input, but I will make them if I have to. If you want to influence the Finance, Mart, Program, Exhibit, Banquet, Security, Hospitality, and/or Publicity for the regional, **step up now, or forever hold your peace.**

To volunteer, please contact me by email [VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto: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

### MARK YOUR CALENDER!

NAWCC Chapter 15 will have a ONE DAY MART in Austin on Saturday, January 19th, 2008.

This Mart will be held at:

Westover Hills Church of Christ  
8332 Mesa Drive  
Austin, Texas 78759

Be ready to buy, sell, or trade! Complete details will be found in the January edition of the Mainspring.

## President's Message

Gene Galbraith

The holiday season is bearing down upon us so fast that we hardly have time to survey the wondrous sights and sounds of Christmas. Back in October, I began to see the early signs of Christmas mixed with the ghoulish trappings of Halloween.

In the good old days, we looked toward Thanksgiving Day as being the harbinger event that Christmas was only a month away. Cities, towns, and villages marked the heralding of Christmas by lighting the streets, buildings, and town squares in a festive array of decorations. Suddenly old nineteenth century buildings became like fantasy castles adorned in glittering lights. Carolers and bell ringers filled the air with their jubilant songs about "peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Church bells rang out over the land in a summons to all, for it was time to gather for a birthday celebration. Wide eyed children huddled around fireplaces, nativity scenes, and Christmas trees to hear the stories of Christmases past.

Often there were tower clocks that took on a special aura during the holidays when they struck the hours counting down to Christmas Eve. There was a time when these magnificent timepieces were the heartbeat of the community. Often the great bells were used to sound alarms, celebrate special occasions, or honor the fallen. Today, they are more of a symbol of the past, rather than the future. Tower clocks have become elevated to the status of national treasures, and well they should be. We can take heart that our children will have many Christmases and New Years in a land that takes time seriously.

Yes, Christmas for me, and the holiday season for others, takes on an extra special meaning in these uncertain times. I will relish in this great tradition, as I sit back in my easy chair in front of the fireplace and contemplate whether I shall enjoy another Christmas so fine. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches

Michael Williams

A couple of chapter members recently expressed confusion about the relationship between Chapter 15 and the new Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches in Lockhart.

The Museum is an entirely separate non-profit organization with a similar mission, with unpaid volunteer officers and directors (same as Chapter 15). One of Chapter 15's officers (Gene) is also a Museum officer and another Chapter 15 officer (not me) is a Museum director. No Chapter 15 funds have been spent to support the Museum.

With that in mind, the Museum offers tremendous educational, physical, and publicity resources to us. NAWCC information and applications will be available and promoted at the Museum, along with Chapter 15 information (including the Great Southwestern Regional). The Museum has a meeting room and classroom space that is conveniently located between Austin and San Antonio and is much easier to find than most of our meeting rooms and classrooms. If we utilize this meeting space, we may be able to attract more visitors (aka "future members"). Some people may be more inclined to visit a clock and watch Museum than a church or restaurant.

In short, the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches and Chapter 15 can be great resources to support each other if we want to participate. Both organizations have dedicated volunteer leadership with a clear vision of promoting horological education and interest in Texas.

### **Chapter Member News**

Jack Duke of Austin passed away on Thursday, December 06, 2007. Jack had opened his wonderful collection to chapter members in the past. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Save The Date**

- ✂ **NAWCC Chapter 15 One-Day Mart**  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 12:00  
Austin, Westover Hills Church of Christ
- ✂ **Lone Star Regional**  
March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Mesquite, Texas Mesquite Convention Center
- ✂ **Great Southwestern Regional**  
April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>  
New Braunfels, Texas  
New Braunfels Civic Center
- ✂ **NAWCC National Convention**  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Springfield, MO

## **Large Clock Sale in Houston!**

Carl Schmiegel, a long time clock collector /dealer/repairperson in the Houston area has decided that it is time to retire to greener pastures, at least to different surroundings. To that end he has requested that this information be made available to all members of the Chapter. Carl's extensive collection of clocks and tools is being offered only to the NAWCC Chapter membership and collector group. This notice is the only advertisement which will be made concerning this sale, plus whatever word-of-mouth details might get out to the general public.

Beginning at 8:00 sharp, Saturday, December 15, the doors to Carl's warehouse will be opened and shoppers will be allowed in to select from perhaps as many as 300 to 400 clocks. There are TALL CASE or GRANDFATHER clocks—English (both eight day and thirty hour), German, Swedish, and at least one American; DOUBLE DIAL CALENDAR clocks—Ithaca, Fashion, and Seth Thomas; MANTEL and SHELF clocks—flat top black American, kitchen, lots of open escapement Ansonia and French; German, English, etc.; WALL clocks—American weight regulators, two- and three-weight Vienna regulators (at least one one-weight), box styles, American banjos, American school house regulators, Self Winding Clock Company galleries, and American store regulators; MANY MOVEMENTS—mostly antique but a few newer (We saw at least five Ansonia open escapement movements, complete); several CASES—metal, wood, porcelain, etc.; STATUE clocks—Ansonia, French, German, and English; MARBLE clocks—American and French; IRON CASED clocks—mostly American; PORCELAIN clocks—Ansonia, New Haven, Seth Thomas, Kroeber, and French-made; a completely equipped clock repair shop which includes several lathes and attachments, drill presses, bushing machine, spring winder, grinders, saws, tons of hand tools, and LOTS OF PARTS, and LOTS MORE STUFF Each item in the warehouse is priced to sell! Here are a few examples: a German Grandfather clock for less than \$600.00; a Seth Thomas Number 2 Regulator priced well under \$1000; and an Ithaca calendar clock below \$700.

Doors will open at 8:00 and there will be no early sales! If necessary, numbers for order of admission into the warehouse will be given out beginning at 7:30. There will be no sales tax collected on this one-day event.

The warehouse is located at 2016 Johanna. This is located one block east of Wirt Road (which is about half-way between Interstate/Loop 610 and Sam Houston Toll Road/Beltway 8) and a block-and-a-half north of Long Point (which is about one mile or so north of Interstate 10).

You can contact Mark Bush at 713-455-1988 or Ben Fulbright at 713-408-9840 for additional information. Or see the Chapter 15 Website for a map and other information.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

<b>Regional Account</b>	<b>\$1,706.33</b>
<b>Chapter Account</b>	<b>\$7,807.66</b>

## CLOCK REPAIR CLASS

November 17, 2007

Pat Holloway

Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> found about 20 Chapter 15 members in attendance at Coker Methodist Church in San Antonio for an excellent clock repair class. This class was an interesting and educational experience for everyone who attended. The day started with a presentation and demonstration by Jerry Brazil on the whys and how's of polishing pivots. Jerry included very useful information on some pivots that might be forgotten such as pivots on the barrel arbor, verge and strike arbors, and pulleys. He also shared a large assortment of helpful tools, techniques and useful materials.

From the session on polishing pivots, everyone moved to the next table to learn about mainsprings. Ron Davidson demonstrated tools and techniques for winding and removing mainsprings, along with what to look for when examining and cleaning the springs. During the session, he also stressed safety tips to keep in mind when working with clock springs.

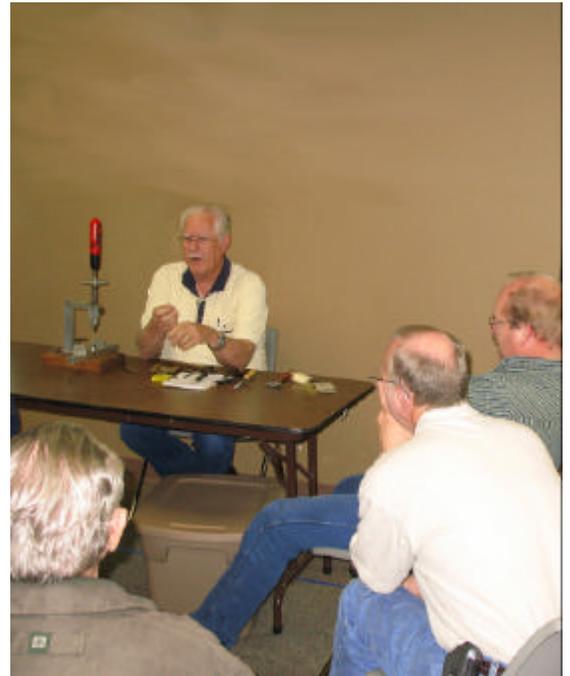
At the next table, Eldon Harris began by talking about "What is a bushing?" before moving to discussing why, when and how a clock should be bushed. He included an explanation and demonstration of various bushing tools, ranging from tools that can be obtained for a few dollars to those that can cost hundreds. In addition to the proper method of bushing, Eldon gave examples of bushings and techniques that should NOT be used.

The program concluded with Michael Webb sharing a wide variety of tools that are useful in clock repair, including several that were very unusual and creative. Two of the specialized tools demonstrated were a cannon pinion puller used to remove the cannon pinion or star wheels from the hand shaft, and an arbor straightening tool that can be used as a pivot checker as well as straightening various arbors. If you weren't able to see the wonderful tools, ask Michael about some of them the next time you see him.

Thanks to Scott Clark, Director of Workshops, as well as each of the presenters, for a very informative and entertaining class!



Jerry explaining finer points of polishing



Eldon explaining when to bush

### ADVERTISEMENT:

#### **Wanted!**

*Clock Tools and Equipment for an Apprentice*

**Please Contact:**

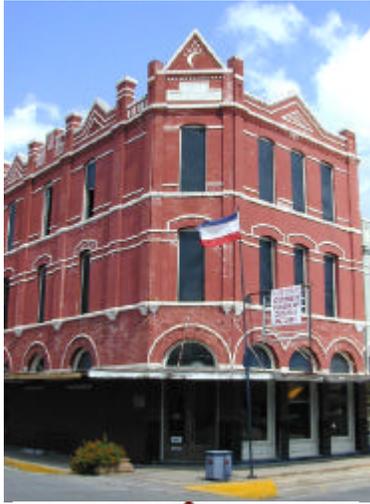
**Clyde Day**

**157 Paradise Ave.**

**Kerrville, Texas 78028**

**830-896-4338**

**[clyded@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:clyded@alumni.utexas.net)**



*THE* Southwest Museum  
CLOCKS & WATCHES

101 E. San Antonio  
Lockhart, TX 78644  
Donations are tax deductible  
Membership dues are \$20.  
Join now thru March 1, 2008,  
to be a "Charter Member".

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✍ ✍ Howard C Vaughn Sr.

Member NAWCC since 1974



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