

The MAIN SPRING

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

Regional Update

Registration for the Great Southwestern Regional is off to a great start! Already, we've rented 30% of the total tables rented last year, including two major vendors. More than 1/6 of the total number of attendees from last year have already signed up, also. All this, and our Mart ad hasn't even hit most NAWCC member's mailboxes yet!

We are still in need of volunteers for nearly every aspect of the regional. Pat could use some help on the registration table. We need a finance chair, somebody to coordinate classes and an evening program (and people to teach the classes), somebody to put together door prizes, somebody to take charge of security, an unloading team, a silent auction chair, somebody to handle the banquet and hospitality, a photographer... Each of these positions is relatively easy, but the four volunteers we have so far can't handle all of them very well! More than 200 people attended last year's regional, and it took the efforts of 14 volunteers to pull it off.

Another way to contribute to the regional is with a donation. We are looking for a donated horological item that will be likely to generate interest in a raffle this year. Two years ago, Gene donated a very nice triple-decker clock that raised nearly \$1200 in the raffle. Without that donation, the regional expenses would not be at break-even for the past two years (combined).

I'm looking forward to hearing from many of you soon, but I will continue to talk to some members to recruit them to regional positions and to run for chapter officer positions over the next couple of months.

Mike Williams, General Chairman
VicePresident@NAWCC-Chapter15.org
(512) 788-5125

WHAT A HOMECOMING!

By: Gaylord Hoyt, Ph.D.

In December 2001 my wife Sue and I took a wonderful trip to Australia. While we were in Melbourne, we visited a few clock shops, as I wanted a clock with "Melbourne" on the dial. To my surprise, I found a clock whose dial bore this wording:

**J. Allen
Melbourne**

On further inspection, I discovered that the clock is an Ansonia. I bought that clock, and the shop owner shipped it home to me in Corpus Christi, Texas.

After receiving the clock, I had the case worked on and the dial touched up, and I reworked the movement. The movement was strange in that the time train needed much work, but the strike train was perfect. After the dial was back in my hands, I found out why the time train needed so much work. Apparently Mr. J. Allen wanted "time" in his Melbourne office but not "chime." I know this because of the wear and the small "T" next to the "time" winding hole arbor. Mr. Allen never used the chime.

This clock was made in Brooklyn, New York, so it was made between 1878 and 1920. Sometime after it was made, it was apparently moved to the West Coast and then went to Melbourne. Mr. J. Allen in Melbourne put his name and the city name on the dial. The clock clearly stayed in Melbourne until I bought it and returned it to the U.S.A. I have been unable to locate any J. Allen in Melbourne.

The clock is now "home" in my home, and I love to tell people who visit here about the travels of this wonderful Ansonia. They always say, "What a Homecoming!"

(See the label and a picture of the clock on last page)

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

A Few Words from the President

~Gene Galbraith

The **Great Southwestern Regional** preparations are in fast-time mode as Vice-president, **Mike Williams**, is putting together his team for the big event. He has streamlined the registration process and made it almost painless to sign up, which reminds me, I need to get on with signing up myself.

Regional conventions do not happen without the effort of many volunteers. Therefore, we urge you to give a little time and energy toward making the 2009 Regional a great time for friends and families to enjoy.

Those of you who have worked in Chapter 15 over the years can bring your knowledge and skills to the various committees and help initiate the new members who want to get involved. The future of Chapter 15 depends on having the "old-timers" mentoring the "new-timers" in building the organization through working on the regional; providing programs for monthly meetings; and helping with one-day marts.

Soon you will have the opportunity to vote for Directors of NAWCC. It is very important for each of you to review the various candidates and their qualifications and vote for the people whom you feel will best serve the national interests of our organization. We are in a critical time in the development of NAWCC. Therefore, let's do our duty as members and vote for leaders who will guide us in the 21st Century.

As we look toward the 2009 Regional Convention, we need people to run for office on the Board of Directors. Chapter 15 elections will be held at the Regional. So, if you wish to "get into the kitchen" and help with cooking up the menu for the next two years, now is the time to let Mike Williams, or any current officer, know that you are interested in putting on a chef's hat. Chapter 15 has a long tradition of service to members of NAWCC, but it takes a lot of cooks to make a banquet. Perhaps it is time for you to do some of the cooking! It's your kitchen! By the way, make my steak medium well.

The Mainspring - February 2009 - Page 2

2009 Membership Renewals

Thanks to each of you who have renewed your Chapter 15 membership for 2009. Many have indicated their willingness to receive the MainSpring via email. Not only does this save money in printing and postage, time in folding and processing, it's also environmentally friendly. Thank you!

Chapter 15 Membership Application
New Application / Renewal (circle one)

Membership Dues are \$10

You must be a current and paid member of NAWCC to join a Chapter.

You may be a member of more than one chapter.

Please Print or Type

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

NAWCC Member # _____

HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC

Enclose this application and check and send to:

Pat Holloway
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Save The Date

- **Florida Mid-Winter
Daytona Beach, Florida
February 18th - 22nd**
- **Lone Star Regional
Mesquite, Texas
March 6th - 7th**
- **Great Southwestern Regional
New Braunfels, Texas
April 17th & 18th**
- **National NAWCC Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 10th - 13th**
- **All Texas Chapters
Houston, Texas
August 28th - 30th**

Southwest Chapter 15 January Meeting

Almost twenty Chapter 15 members and guests attended the monthly meeting on Saturday, January 17, 2009, at the SW Museum of Clocks & Watches in Lockhart, Texas.

Gene Galbraith presented the program on Comtoise clocks of Morbier and Morez in the Franche-Comte` Province of France. In addition to giving a history of these interesting clocks, the attendees were able to begin part one of a hands-on workshop as Gene explained the proper disassembly, care and maintenance. At noon, many of the attendees met for lunch and a time of fellowship at nearby Black's Barbeque.

Gene is shown in the background in the picture below with a Comtoise clock movement in the foreground.



Welcome New Member!
Welcome to Marsha Mathis,
our newest Chapter 15 member.

The Mainspring - February 2009 - Page 3

Southwest Chapter 15 Income Statement for 2008			
Funds On Hand 1/1/08		\$7,805.66	
Income			
Membership Fees	\$2450.00		
Meeting Income	\$141.83		
Total Income	\$2591.83	\$2591.83	
Operating Expenses			
General			
Printing/Postage	(\$1168.89)		
Meeting Expense	(\$50.00)		
Insurance	(\$515.00)		
Bank Expense	(\$4.00)		
Total Expenses	(\$1,737.89)	(\$1,737.89)	
Net Funds for 2008	\$853.94	\$853.97	
Funds On Hand 12/31/2008		\$8659.60	

Note: This accounting reflects a transfer of funds that will occur shortly. Payment in September for \$445.78 in printing and postage was inadvertently paid from the Regional account. This is being reversed and is shown as corrected here.

Dr. Hoyt says that the label in the clock reads:

PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED PARIS EXPOSITION.
1878.

ANSONIA CLOCK CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
CLOCKS & MOVEMENTS
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

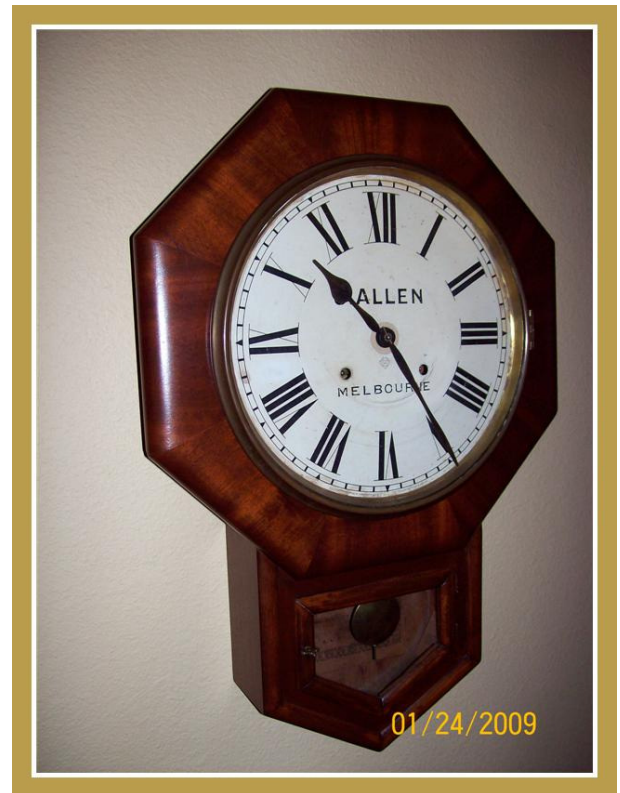
----- ... -----

FACTORY—BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

----- ... -----

General Offices--11 to 10 **CLIFT STREET, NEW YORK.**
U. S. A.

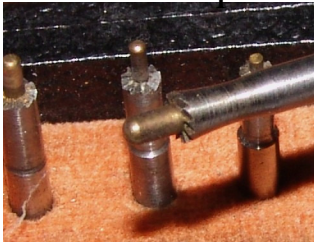
The clock was manufactured between 1878 (company moved to Brooklyn) and 1929 (company sold to Russians).



Dr. Hoyt's Australian-American Clock
Gene Galbraith points out that the clock looks to be a 1901 model of Ansonia's "Schoolhouse" Octagon.

Answers to last month

#1 Close Up



Sort of an endmill. The center piece is a pilot to go in a hole Then the "teeth" will cut the area around the hole. Frequently used to cut down bushes that are too tall, or used as a countersink. This an old set.



#2 Roller Remover but can be used to gently push on any friction fit piece. The jaw on each side adjusts and center piece is driven by knob at top.



#3

Burnisher for work hardening metal.