



The MAINSPRING

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

Chapter Resources

Times have changed since Chapter 15 was established 54 years ago. At the first meeting, individuals travelled up to 350 miles, at least one of them by taking an all night bus each way. Enthusiasm was high and our charter established the first NAWCC chapter representing Texas and the four surrounding states. At least one telegram was received from NAWCC headquarters and another was sent from the newly formed chapter to NAWCC. We have more information about this meeting on our website at www.nawcc-chapter15.org/FirstMeeting.htm.

Over the years, Chapter 15 members started other chapters centered in the ArkLaTex region, the Panhandle, other states, Dallas, and Houston as enthusiasm grew and members wanted chapter benefits closer to home. Today, there are many more distractions to daily living and many more options for clock and watch collectors. We learned recently that Chapter 45, one of our oldest "spinoff" chapters, folded. They simply didn't have enough volunteers for chapter officers to keep the chapter going. We've had similar issues, but not nearly as severe, yet. Chapter 45 co-sponsored our Great Southwestern Regional for many years, along with four other "spinoff" chapters. We don't have volunteers for every position or class, but we do have a few enthusiastic volunteers, eager new members, one of the best NAWCC chapter websites in existence, and a healthy bank account.

Chapter 15 continues to meet or offer classes on a fairly regular basis, and some of the meetings are reasonably well attended. But we have other resources available today that nobody dreamed of in 1955. For example, former Chapter 15 Vice President Ted Orban developed our chapter website a few years ago, along with

another great Internet resource: HorologySource.com. One of the perks of chapter membership is that chapter members who have a horological-related website (business or personal) can post a FREE AD on our website. There are also many links to material supply sources, educational information, educational websites, and other clock and watch related websites. Newsletters from the past several years are available as well as information on upcoming events (including links to online maps in many cases). Southwestern Chapter 15 of NAWCC is even a "group" on Facebook, with some information on upcoming events and photos from past educational programs, including the Caldwell County Courthouse Tower Clock, Jerry Brazil's Rare and Unusual Clocks, Tiffany Neverwind Clocks, and the Peter Stretch Tall Clock!

The times have really changed, but we can use that to our benefit. We can keep in contact better than ever before, and share incredible information even when meetings and classes are too inconvenient for our hectic schedules. We are always looking for more educational material to publish in the Mainspring, post on our Website, and on our Facebook page. Please take the time to check out these resources, make contributions when you are able, and recommendations when you have them.

Mike Williams
President

Treasurer's Report (unchanged from prior month)	
Chapter Account	\$8,247.63
Regional Account	\$4,563.60

Chapter 15 authors

The August issue of *The Bulletin* showcases the talent of several Chapter 15 authors. "In Search of Charles Feichtinger" by **Mary Ellen Bell** and **Don Bugh** provides fascinating insight into the life and times of Charles Feichtinger and his clocks. To learn more about Mr. Feichtinger, his calendar mechanism and clock-making at the turn of the century, be sure to check out the front cover as well as the article and many pictures which begin on page 397.

This issue of *The Bulletin* also includes "History, Specifications, and Restoration of Stromberg Self-Winding Clocks," co-authored by another Chapter member, **Ken Reindel**. Anyone wanting to learn more about self-winding clocks, either from a historical or technical standpoint should certainly take the time to read this very interesting and informative article (page 429).

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Southern Fashion Clocks

The Chapter 15 July meeting was held at the home of Pat and Jay Holloway in Pflugerville, Texas. The meeting began with a time of fellowship and refreshments before **Jay Holloway** presented a program on the Southern Calendar Clock Company.

To establish the setting a history was presented about the founders, the Culver Brothers, and their many business interests. We learned about their original product interest of "cooking stoves" and how the economic troubles of the 1870s may have influenced their experiment in the calendar clock business.

The Culver Brothers held many patents, with several exclusively for the "Fashion Calendar Clocks". A relationship was drawn from the founding of the Southern Calendar Clock Company in 1875 and the closing of the St Louis, MO company in 1889 that tied the Culver patents to the various models produced under their name. Many questions were fielded about the relationship of the Southern Calendar Clock Company and the Seth Thomas Clock Company of CT as well as the many views by historians today who seek to date the "Fashion Clocks".

The Southern Calendar Clock Company utilized several unique tactics to market and sell their products. How this related to their cooking stove interests brought many questions. The program included the Southern Calendar Clock Company being revived in the 1890s in Columbus MS and their subsequent failure.

Jay's presentation also included pictures of the non-Southern Calendar Clock Company "Fashion clocks" along with a discussion of the various manufacturers, design variances and current price value relationships. Many of the Southern Calendar Clock Company models were on display for hands-on opportunity to review and confirm the data discussed. (See pictures next page.)

Our thanks to Jay for this fascinating presentation.





Member news

Earlier this month we learned that Rachel Day, wife of Clyde Day and mother of Neill Day, both Chapter 15 members, passed away on July 7th. Many of you will remember Rachel whose ready smile and enthusiasm brightened our Chapter functions. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Calling all program ideas

Do you have a special topic you would like to learn more about? Are you willing to present a program or lead a workshop? Are watches or clocks your passion? Do you like learning about masters of the industry? Have plans for an article you'd like to try out on an appreciative audience?

We're in the process of planning for 2010 and would like to hear from you. Please contact any of the officers (listed on the facing page) with your ideas. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

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

Membership Dues are \$10

You must be a current and paid NAWCC member 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

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Save The Date

- All Texas Chapters Regional
Houston, Texas
August 28th – 30th
(No additional Chapter 15 meeting)
- MKOA Regional
Carthage, Missouri
September 24th – 26th
- Chapter 15 monthly program
September 26th
- Chapter 15 monthly program
October 24th
Coker Methodist Church, San Antonio
Ed Gaida – San Antonio area tower and street
clocks
- Watch for additional information about the
upcoming holiday potluck

Thanks

Thanks to Gene Galbraith who recently donated stanchions and rope to the Chapter. This addition will be very useful in setting off the Regional exhibit and other display areas at Chapter functions. Thank you, Gene.

October Workshop

We have tentatively scheduled a dial painting class with Phil Gregory in October. If you are interested in attending, please notify Pat Holloway as soon as possible so plans can be firmed up.

The Five States Collectors Regional originally scheduled for August 14 – 15th in Lubbock has been rescheduled for a Regional One-Day event on September 12th in Plainview. Additional information is posted on the Chapter 15 website.