



The MAINSPRING

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

Why I belong

~ Part 1

With apologies to Chapter 15 members who already know most of this story, I'm repeating it here in the hopes that it will remind others about why each of us belongs to NAWCC and to Chapter 15.

My father grew up during The Great Depression, moving from place to place as his parents struggled to raise three children. His mother died when he was a teenager and his father died before I was three years old—I have very hazy memories of "Papa". I know that I grew up in a stable household with few frills, but we always had (simple) food to eat, the rent or mortgage was always paid, and we always took an annual vacation (in a tent). We also had a table clock that my father had inherited from his father—a clock that always fascinated me.

Over the years, our clock would stop working and would disappear, sometimes for months at a time, while a clock repairman would try to repair it. As I grew older, I discovered that I could coax a few more months of life out of the clock between repairs by adjusting some of the external moving parts (I didn't know the names). I later learned that I was setting the clock in beat by centering the ruby pallets on a Brocot escapement.

Early in our married life, my mother-in-law bought Carrie and me a 31 day schoolhouse clock (Korean movement), which we loved and moved with us many times over nearly 20 years before it finally stopped running. Ten years later, she also gave us a very nice German bim-bam box clock. Shortly before the 31 day clock died, my Dad decided to send the family heirloom clock to me—it wasn't working again, he was moving, and it was time to pass it on to the next generation.

The year was 1994. I loved clocks, but I had three, and two didn't work. I attempted to determine the problem with the 31 day clock by taking it apart. I somehow survived. The clock didn't. The family heirloom went to a professional.

Researching our family clock, I learned that although the dial was signed Cowell & Hubbard, Chicago, it was actually a French clock in an American case! Cowell & Hubbard was, and still is, a Cleveland Jeweler (now part of Zales). They apparently had operations in Chicago at one time. My Great-Great-Grandfather was from Cleveland, but lived in Chicago in the mid 1890's. The movement in the clock was an S. Marti et Cie Medaille de Bronze (ca 1860-1900), and the case was known as a crystal regulator, with Corinthian pillars. There are traces of gilding in some of the details, but years of polishing (mostly with Brasso) removed nearly all traces of anything but brass. It turns out that this clock, in its day, was a status symbol—my ancestor, the original owner, was prominent in the small shipping container industry (boxes), and his brother co-founded Sherwin-Williams Paint Corporation. One of these days—I didn't know when or how, I was determined to learn how to properly take care of this clock without relying on others.

To be continued...

Mike Williams
President

Welcome

Join us in welcoming new Chapter 15 member

Gary Sertich
Austin, Texas

San Antonio Public Clocks

~ October program

If you haven't already marked your calendars, you'll want to save Saturday, October 24th from 10 a.m. to noon for our October program. Ed Gaida, San Antonio historian and author, will discuss his restorations of public clocks in the San Antonio area and around South Texas. You'll learn about the history and 2008 restoration of the E Howard No. 1 post clock located at the corner of St. Mary's and Houston Streets in downtown San Antonio. Mr. Gaida's discussion will also include his restorations of other public clocks.

We will meet at the facilities of Coker United Methodist Church which is located near the San Antonio International Airport, west of highway 281, between Bitters and Nakoma at 231 E North Loop Rd. Their phone is (210) 494-3455.

Directions:

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.

For additional detail, a map is available on the Chapter 15 website.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account	\$8,004.56
Expenses – Newsletter print/mail	\$283.07
Income – Dues	\$ 40.00
Regional Account	\$4,463.60

MKOA Regional and NAWCC update

Like last month's All Texas Chapters Regional, the recent MKOA Regional in Carthage, Missouri certainly lived up to the description on the NAWCC website! Chapter 15 was well represented, with more than ten members among those who enjoyed the activities and hospitality.

Renee Coulson, the Regional's NAWCC representative, spoke at Friday night's banquet. In addition to giving a brief update on current membership numbers, Renee presented a great overview of the available functions and improvements to the NAWCC website. Did you know...

- you can register online now or print a form and mail the registration for the 2010 National in York, Pennsylvania by clicking on the 2010 National link on the right side of the home page?
- just below the National link, there is a list of upcoming Regionals, many of them including dates/locations as well as links to registration and additional information?
- there is a link for upcoming Field Suitcase Workshop dates and locations in this same area of the website? That many of the FSW classes are offered in the Houston or Dallas metropolitan areas or in conjunction with upcoming Regionals/National?
- there is a Bulletin Index picture in the center of the page that will take you directly to the index when you click the picture?

These are only a few of the great links you'll find on the site. Keep an eye out for more updates and fun features in next month's newsletter, and take a few minutes now to try out these links at <http://www.nawcc.org/>.

It's Dues time again.....

Hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about renewing your Chapter membership for 2010. Several members have already renewed; if you're unsure if you've paid, the year through which your dues are paid can be found in the upper right hand corner in the mailing label of this newsletter, or if you receive the newsletter via e-mail, you can contact me at pwholloway@suddenlink.net to check the status. "2009" on your mailing label means you have paid through December 2009 and will need to renew for 2010.

For convenience, we will also have renewal forms available at the upcoming events over the next several months, and I will have a current membership list we can reference.

Dues are \$10 per year and run concurrent with the calendar year. Please complete the Membership Application found in this newsletter so we can check our records for addresses and other details. Additionally, if you don't already, please consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail and indicate by checking this option on the application. E-mail distribution helps save on postage and production expenses, allowing us to utilize the available funds for outreach and educational programs. Thank you for your continued support of our Chapter!

Board Officers and Contact Information

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Vice President – Open

Treasurer (acting) – Neill Day
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Secretary – Pat Holloway
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Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

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: _____

_____ Please send my Chapter 15 newsletter by email.

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC
Enclose this application and check and send to:

Pat Holloway
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Contact information - continued

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NAWCC Chapter 15 website
<http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org>

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Save The Date

- Chapter 15 monthly program
October 24th
Coker Methodist Church, San Antonio
Ed Gaida – San Antonio area public clocks
- Chapter 15 Annual holiday potluck
November 14th
The Holloways' in Pflugerville
- December – no meeting scheduled
- Lone Star Regional
March 5th – 6th, 2010
- NAWCC National Convention
June 16th – 20th, 2010
York, PA

2010 Programs and Workshops

We're currently planning for 2010 and would like to say Thanks! to everyone who has let us know your interests for programs and workshops! We're listening, and it's not too late to contact any of the Chapter 15 officers or directors to help us plan.

Additionally, the dial painting class with Phil Gregory will be rescheduled after the first of the year. If you are interested in attending, please notify Pat Holloway as soon as possible so the timing and location of the class can be scheduled and plans finalized.

It's not too late to start thinking about entering a craft project in the 2010 National Convention!