



The MAINSPRING

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

Why I belong

~ Part 2

When my father shipped our family crystal regulator clock to me, he very carefully wrapped and boxed the clock. Nevertheless, after surviving four generations and more than 100 years of moves all over the country, UPS managed to abuse the package enough to break both of the mercury vials. Fortunately, the plastic packaging inside contained all of the mercury, so no further damage was done. I found a clock repairman in a nearby town to clean and lubricate the clock. He took the loose mercury off my hands, but was unable to replace the sealed vials that belonged in the pendulum. But while he was working on the clock, I found a glass shop at a university in Georgia who would fabricate new vials with new mercury sealed inside—at a reasonable price! The clock repairman, on the other hand, put the porcelain dial of my clock in his ultrasonic cleaner and promptly “cleaned” off the “Cowell & Hubbard, Chicago” lettering from the dial! But the clock ran reliably after the cleaning and oiling with the new mercury vials in the pendulum.

A couple of years later, after a move to Miami, one of the mainsprings let go while I was winding the clock, breaking one of the ruby pallets on the brocot escapement. I was fortunate to find a very competent repairman this time—a certified master clockmaker with a last name that should be recognizable to many: Terwilliger. This was not Charles, who “wrote the book” on 400 day clock repair, but his son Robert (Bob). In any event, he clearly knew what he was doing, but he charged accordingly. I knew that taking care of this clock was not something that I could afford if I was always going to rely on others!

I retired at the end of 1999 and moved to Austin. Moving the clock twice (to a rental, then to the house we bought) didn’t help matters. It stopped running reliably, but didn’t seem to be “broke”. I found a local repairman, who gave me an overhaul estimate that was twice the cost of the recent overhaul performed by Bob Terwilliger. I didn’t believe that it needed an overhaul again and I couldn’t afford it anyway, so the clock sat on a shelf for the next five years—driving me crazy every time I looked at it. Meanwhile, our German Bim-Bam Box Clock had also stopped working.

In 2005, my wife and I finally purchased a grandfather clock—we had wanted one for 30 years but didn’t want to move it all over the country. I also decided to buy a DVD clock repair course. I loved it, and while I learned some of the basics (including how to oil a clock movement), I wanted some “hands-on” instruction. While shopping for our grandfather clock, we met Bob Larson, who was the president of the Capitol Area Watchmakers-Clockmakers Guild at the time. He invited us to a meeting. That’s also when I found the Chapter 15 website and learned about an upcoming six-week beginning clock repair class and the Great Southwestern Regional. Very quickly, we were hooked! Before the end of the year, I was repairing clocks for others, buying and selling clocks, running the Chapter 15 website, and with one full year, I was drafted as the Chapter 15 Vice President. Best of all, our original family crystal regulator and German Bim-Bam clocks have been running reliably for the past four years, and have dozens of other clocks as company. Conversation in our house now has to pause every quarter-hour to wait for various chimes and strikes on chime rods, bells, and gongs....and we love it!

Mike Williams, President



San Antonio Public Clocks ~ October program

Almost twenty Chapter 15 members and guests received a real treat on Saturday, October 24th when Ed Gaida, San Antonio historian and author discussed public clocks in the San Antonio area and around South Texas. These clocks included the E Howard No. 1 post clock located at the corner of St. Mary’s and Houston Streets in downtown San Antonio, the tower clocks at the Southwest Craft Center (formerly Ursuline Academy), Ft. Sam Houston and Our Lady of the Lake, as well as in Gonzales and Huntsville.

A brief history and early pictures of the Hertzberg clock were presented. The clock was so named because of its installation in front of the Eli Hertzberg Jewelry Company on Commerce Street. Both the store and the clock were moved to the current location in 1910.

Throughout the years, generations of San Antonio residents have come to rely on the clock so when it stopped functioning, calls and emails came flooding in. Mr. Gaida was contacted and, with the assistance of Jerry Brazil, work began. Years of exposure to the elements had left the works rusted and the wooden hands badly deteriorated.

The works were removed and restored as were the hands and seatboard for the motion works. The wooden parts were originally constructed of long leaf pine. Although this wood is not common today, wood salvaged from a

South Carolina mill constructed in 1878 (contemporary to the clock’s manufacture) was located and used in the restoration.

As seen in the photograph, thanks to the careful restoration, the clock is now back in place and continues to keep San Antonio on time!

2nd Annual Chapter 15 Potluck

It’s almost here! Our second annual Chapter 15 Potluck Social will be Saturday, November 14th at Jay and Pat Holloway’s home (1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville 78660).

To allow travel time to and from surrounding areas, the social will be a lunch, from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come a little early and stay later to visit if your schedule allows. Spouses and friends are encouraged to attend.

Coffee, iced tea and water as well as paper goods will be furnished. Please plan to bring a dish of your choice: meats/main dishes, vegetables, salads, breads, desserts, etc. are all needed. If last year was any indication, second helpings will be a must and no one will go away hungry!

Directions to the Holloways’: From I-35, take Exit 247 FM 1825/ Pflugerville/ Wells Branch Parkway. From the south, take a right at the light on Wells Branch Parkway. From the north, take a left at the light on Wells Branch Parkway. Continue straight on Wells Branch Parkway past the 4-way stop. Turn left at 10th Street (you will see the Goddard School on the left). Take the first right onto Ambrose, then the second left onto Lafayette. Red brick house on the corner of Lafayette and Ambrose. Please call with questions (512-252-3881).

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$8,075.42
Expenses – refreshments and supplies for Chapter meetings	\$ 49.14
Income – Dues	\$120.00
Regional Account	\$4,463.60

2010 Chapter 15 Membership Renewal

Thanks to each of you who have already renewed your Chapter 15 membership for 2010! There has been a great response, and now we're just waiting to hear from the remaining 60% who have yet to renew. If you're unsure if you've renewed, the year through which your dues are paid can be found in the upper right hand corner in the mailing label of this newsletter. "2009" on your mailing label means you have paid through December 2009 and will need to renew for 2010. If you receive the newsletter via e-mail, an email will be sent to let you know your renewal status.

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 would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please indicate this 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.

For convenience, we will also have renewal forms available at upcoming events over the next several months, and there will be a current membership list we can reference. Thank you for your continued support of our Chapter!

Board Officers and Contact Information

President – Michael Williams
(512) 733-7375
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

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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Save The Date

- Chapter 15 Annual holiday potluck
Saturday, November 14th
The Holloways' in Pflugerville
- December – no meeting scheduled
- Chapter 15 Monthly meeting
January 23
- Lone Star Regional
March 5th – 6th, 2010
- NAWCC National Convention
June 16th – 20th, 2010
York, PA

Did you know....

NAWCC members will soon have online access to the great information included in the Supplements to the Bulletin? Read more about it by going to the Publications > Other Publications section of the website at <http://www.nawcc.org/>.

Your thoughts

This is your newsletter, please let us know what you'd like to see included. If you have bench tips, interesting information you'd like to share, or suggestions, we'd like to hear from you.

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