

# The MAINSPRING

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

## Connections

In the past few weeks I've reconnected with my old best friend from junior high school and with many people from my high school graduating class. It has been wonderful and awe inspiring to learn of their accomplishments in the past few decades—a doctor, a top American body builder, a beauty queen, a fireman, a florist, a NASA engineer, a casino worker, and an international HR consultant are all among them. At the same time we were able to offer encouragement to each other for the heartaches and struggles that we've gone through, from divorces to the death of a child. But it has been wonderful to share our lives with each other and to reminisce. I hope that this will continue.

Along the same lines, one of the things I like best about NAWCC chapter events is the social aspect. Visiting with others who share the same interests is even more fun than learning about new things in the horological world, or finding bargains, or selling clocks or parts that I no longer want or need. Stories about people and chapter events from decades ago are fascinating. So when the decision was made to cancel our regional this year, I worried that Chapter 15 would suffer—regionals have traditionally been the major event of the year for mixing with other members and swapping stories. We needed to do something for our annual meeting in lieu of the regional, especially since this was our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a chapter, which was formed in 1955.

The idea of a "mini-regional" was concocted: A short mart, educational program and an annual chapter meeting. A meal was added because meetings with food seem to appeal to everybody. Our chapter officers and directors jumped into the planning for this event,

making sure we had a great location, lining up food and a plan for the day, and putting together historical displays and a quiz.

It was truly wonderful to recognize those who have been Chapter 15 members for decades, listen to their stories, view the historical displays and see photographs of current Chapter 15 members "in action" four decades ago or more. Turnout was wonderful, the food was great, and participation at our annual meeting was better than I could have imagined. For dessert, the icing on the cake was Ben Fulbright's excellent presentation on valuing our collections.

Congratulations to Ken Reindel, elected by acclamation as the new chapter Vice President. Ken has taught several classes for the chapter over the past few years, including gear making, making bushings on a lathe, and two classes on Self Winding Clocks. In his day job, Ken is the Director of Measurement Technology for National Instruments Corporation, and in his spare time, fabricates clock parts and runs Ken's Clock Clinic. Thank you Ken, for volunteering to serve!

Don't forget that our chapter has great educational programs already scheduled for May and June, including yet another class by Ken. Hope to see everybody there!

Mike Williams  
President

*Welcome*

Join us in welcoming new Chapter 15 member

**Robert McGee**  
**Galveston, Texas**

## May 22<sup>nd</sup> Program - Special guest speaker

Have you ever wondered whether the diamonds on that watch you're considering are real? Are those real pearls you're thinking about buying? Is that really a sapphire on the end of that watch key, or a piece of colored glass? If these are things you've ever pondered, make plans now to join us on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear our special guest speaker, Penny Armstrong. Penny, who holds the GIA (Gemological Institute of America) Graduate Gemologist diploma and is a Certified Gemologist Appraiser (affiliate status) with the American Gem Society, will be covering topics such as these and many more during her presentation. With the aid of a microscope, she'll also point out clues to look for. If you have a watch, fob, key, or other piece of jewelry you'd like to learn more about, you may bring it to the meeting and, as time allows, Penny will talk about it. You won't want to miss this fun and informative meeting, so mark your calendars now for Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Holloway's (1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville).

### Board members and Contact Information

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Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account – no change	<b>\$7,878.31</b>
Regional Account	<b>\$4,353.61</b>
Beginning balance	\$4,363.60
Expenses – Parcom internet Website	\$ 9.99

### Member news

We recently learned that Robert L. "Bob" Phillips of Houston passed away on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the age of 94. Bob had been a member of Chapter 15 since 1974. He and his wife, Rowena, had been very active members for many years, and he will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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

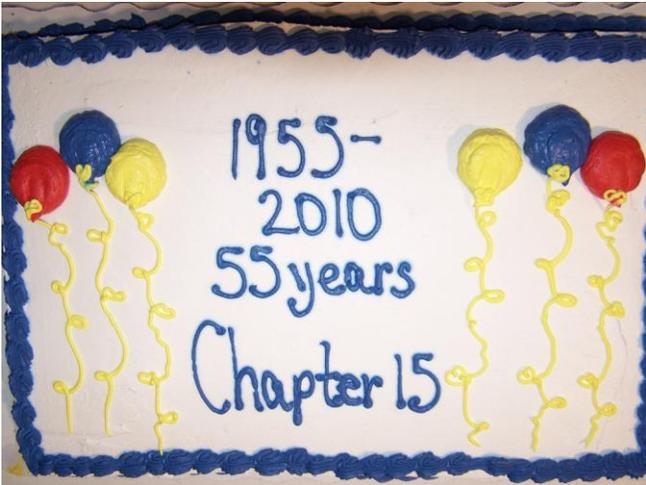


### Real or fake?

Learn how to tell the difference at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> program.

Don't miss it!

Let the celebration begin!



A sweet way to celebrate 55 years!



Gary Covington, Bea Copeland and Ham Hamilton were recognized as Chapter 15 members since the 70's



Bea Copeland and Ham Hamilton with Ralph Henderson, another long time Chapter 15 member



Thanks to Karen (and Bob) Rasmussen for creating this beautiful Chapter 15 history display!



Ample opportunities for lots of visiting, and a little trading



Bea Copeland, Ben Fulbright, who presented the day's program, and Ham Hamilton

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15  
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### **Save The Date**

- May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Chapter 15 Program  
“Real or fake?”  
10 a.m., 1105 Lafayette Lane  
See details of this exciting program  
on page 2
- NAWCC National Convention  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
York, PA
- June 26<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter 15 program
- July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter 15 program

### **Coming in June...**

Starting next month, we'll be featuring a series of articles by our new vice-president, Ken Reindel. You won't want to miss this interesting and informative series on miniature alarm clock restoration. In addition to restoration, the article includes information on some of the early miniature alarm clocks. We've had a sneak preview, and discovered that it's written in language that even I can understand and learn from! If you receive the newsletter by email, you'll definitely want to open the attachment to view the color illustrations.

If there are other topics you'd like to see covered in future articles, please let us know. We'll try our best to find someone who is knowledgeable and willing to teach us more. This is *your* newsletter!