

Third annual potluck November 13

It's almost here! If you haven't already, clear your schedule and make plans now to attend our third annual Chapter 15 Potluck Social on Saturday, November 13th at Jay and Pat Holloway's home (1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville 78660).

If you have a friend who's interested in clocks or watches, this is a great time to invite them to join you. 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 arrive a little early and stay later to visit if your schedule allows.

Coffee, iced tea, water and 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 the last two years are any indication, no one will go away hungry! Not only do we have some very talented horologists in our Chapter, we also have some experts in the culinary arts.

Restoration of Darche 1908 Flashlight Alarm

Ken Reindel (part 2)

The task of disassembly began with difficulty. The .068" thick tabs securing the silos proved to be an enormous challenge. Sharpening a screwdriver to a wedge afforded a tool to pry them up. This was followed by straightening with pliers.



These tabs did not bend easily (lower left). Would they survive bending back down to re-secure the

silos, or would metal fatigue get the better of them? Hopefully they would survive, but we wouldn't know that until we were almost finished with reassembly.

A possible option for the tabs is to scribe a line where the tab meets the underside of the base, and then once disassembled drill holes in the tabs for taper pins just at the scribe lines. The advantage of this is it would allow as many disassemblies of the unit as desired. The tabs would never need to be bent over again. Speaking now with hindsight, this is what I would do if I were to start over.

Another problem was the bent tabs inside both cans, utilizing the top cross member to pull the silos together. There is no way this would survive removal. I thought about drilling holes for a draw bar between the left and right silos. Ultimately I elected to forego the idea, since the clock was rigid enough and the silos properly aligned with no assistance. It could be an option if the silos had an outward tilt as there is clearance behind the upper cross member to accommodate this.



After either drilling out or removing the rivets holding the base of the "bank" unit internal to the left silo, the door and all buzzer rivets and coil yokes, the unit was disassembled into its parts and the restoration could finally begin.

Plating. We use 180 grit brown aluminum oxide to media blast all of our steel parts in preparation for plating because it never blurs fine details. This was one time I wished we used something more coarse. It took quite some time to wear away the corrosion, rust and plating. Each part was a project in itself, taking 2 hours or

more at the sandblaster. All told, it was a couple days' work just to strip the parts. After stripping, each part was pre-polished with a Britex wheel. This left a "Butler nickel" finish on the parts, many of which still had some nickel remaining after media blasting. This is how they would enter the copper tank.

It was interesting to note that there was very little copper found under the nickel. The nickel was extremely heavy and did not come off easily. This wasn't really a problem since the EPI E-Brite Ultra Cu formulation we use can plate over nickel quite well. The corrosion and rust were very slow to remove, but ultimately every part cleaned up very well. I felt a sense of encouragement as the parts were removed from the copper bath, fully plated and ready to restore/polish. Very few parts required solder filling. The base was in the worst shape of any part. Examination of sections of plating that were not damaged indicated many original blemishes in the factory finish. In an attempt to avoid over-restoration, some of the blemishes were left. There was a general texture to the metal that I did not want to lose. Applying one coat of copper did the job very nicely and provided a buffing layer that worked adequately for everything except the base.

Some of the internal parts were badly corroded. In general, this is inconsequential as long as the corrosion is removed and none of it passes through the part. We were fortunate. All of the parts were reusable, despite clear evidence of battery leakage eating away at internal components. One hour in the nickel tank and the parts were ready to go. Every part, down to the last screw, nut, lag and gadget, was cleaned, pre-polished, and nickel plated. The nickel plating took two 14 hour sessions to complete, not including the clock can.

Shown below are the results of the first plating session. Another plating session completed the movement can, door and knob (which needed to be reconditioned on the lathe to restore the shape and knurl). The bank draw

bar, nuts, screws, alarm winding lever, and some other small parts are not shown, but were likewise plated.



(Tune in for the final installment next month.)

October Program

The "key" to discovery: A long and winding road

On Saturday, October 23rd, we had the opportunity to learn a little more about the winding mechanisms in watches through the years, focusing on the early years when watches were wound with a key, much as clocks are today. Pat Holloway began the program with a review of books that provide reference information on watches, watch keys, methods of wearing watches, and articles on the same subjects.

The program included a collection of pictures showing people wearing watches, keys and fobs which led to discussion on the styles and designs over the 1700's through the early 1900's. It was noted that small children were often shown wearing watches with chains and fobs. This was a statement of fashion and social standing.

The program then moved to advertising media used by the various watch and watch part manufacturers. Watch movements were shipped in watch tins, which were shown in pictures and actual tins that were passed around for the attendees to see. Advertising items then moved to post cards (even seasonal ones) that

featured watches and clocks. Watch openers were another item manufacturers used to promote their name to the public for increased sales.

A display of watch stands was shown for all to see how owners would store and use their watch when it was not on their person. The discussion moved on to watch parts and how they have been used over the years as jewelry due to the fine engraving work on the parts. Watch chains and fobs have been utilized as necklaces and broaches because of their beauty.

As wrist watches were introduced a display of 'conversion bands' was shown which allowed the individual (generally women) to secure their prized watch into a band to be worn on their wrist. Various accessories were shown that individuals used for functions ranging from securing the watch from theft to hanging a key or watch on a drapery for safekeeping overnight.

The program then moved to how the watch was wound and its history from the early form of 'key wind' from the front or back of the watch and how it moved to the 'stem wind' system used today. Many watch keys had multiple functions to enhance its use such as pencils, toothpicks, novelty items, symbols denoting an individual's profession, on to practical use to wind the watch more easily.

The program ended with responses to many questions and a lively discussion on the unique history of watches and accessories.

Member news

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of former Chapter 15 member Joe Graham of San Antonio. Joe and his wife, Jean, were active members for many years. Some of you may remember seeing the tall case clock Joe lovingly crafted and entered in the NAWCC National Craft competition in the late 70s – a testament to Joe's workmanship and another example of the wonderful talent our members have shared.

Chapter membership

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your Chapter membership for 2011. Many have indicated a desire to receive their newsletter electronically. If you have an email address, please consider joining your fellow members who have already opted for this delivery method – not only does it reduce our costs, you receive the newsletter more quickly, and it's environmentally friendly! Renewal is easier than ever with the addition of the Chapter 15 website PayPal option.

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: _____

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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

Treasurer's Report – no change	
Chapter Account	\$7,579.63
Regional Account	\$4,363.60

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15
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Save The Date

- November 6 & 7
Wooden clock works
Workshop
9 – 5 each day
Holloways'

- November 13
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Annual Chapter 15 Potluck
Holloways'

- December – no meeting

- January 22
Program - Fusee movements
Bob Rasmussen

Hope to see **you** in our next function picture!

