

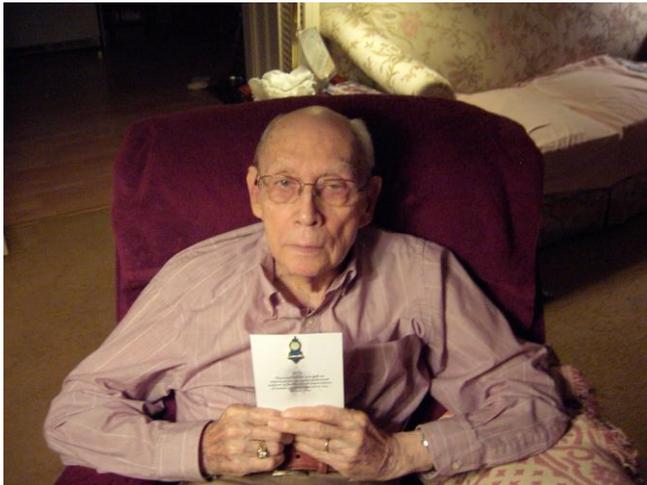
# The MAINSPRING

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

## Congratulations!!

Join us in congratulating Julian Cox on 40 years with the NAWCC and Chapter 15! Julian was sponsored by Lawrence Tate in 1971 and served as Chapter treasurer for many years. Although he's now 91 and no longer able to attend the meetings, he has many fond memories of Chapter meetings – both those held in people's homes and the bigger Annual meetings.

Our congratulations to Julian on this wonderful milestone!



## February program – Charles Feichtinger and his clocks

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, fourteen chapter members were treated to a very informative program on Charles Feichtinger and his clocks. Mary Ellen Bell provided fascinating background on Mr. Feichtinger, including photographs of the family and the home where he and his extended family lived and where he had a workshop. She also shared photographs of his shop in Sinking Springs, PA, both at the time he was there and a current shot, along with a map of the city showing where businesses were located.

Mary Ellen also brought along two Feichtinger clocks, one of which may have been an early

prototype. The days on the calendar roller appeared to be made from letters cut out of a magazine or newspaper, with no consistency from one day to the next. It was apparent from the pictures in the presentation and early catalogs that the clocks utilized the same cases as Waterbury clocks in the "H" series where all of the model names begin with H. The difference is the shape of the base and an opening in the base where the day of the week appears.

As usual, we were full of questions after the presentation, all of which Mary Ellen patiently answered. If you missed the presentation or would like to learn more about these clocks, take a look at the August 2009 *Bulletin* Feichtinger article that Don Bugh and Mary Ellen authored. We're looking forward to hearing more about these clocks as Mary Ellen and Don continue to research and uncover additional details. If you have information or examples of these clocks, I'm sure they would love to hear from you.



Two examples of Charles Feichtinger calendar clocks.

*Welcome*

Join us in welcoming new Chapter 15 member

**John Blanks**  
**Kerrville, Texas**

Treasurer's Report	
<b>Chapter Account</b>	<b>\$7,792.13</b>
Membership renewal (net of PayPal fees)	248.96
Liability insurance renewal	(500.00)
	<b>\$7,541.09</b>
<b>Regional Account</b>	<b>\$4,363.60</b>

## Member news

We were saddened to hear that Modie Driskill, a long time Chapter 15 member, passed away last month. Many of you may remember Modie and his wife Helen who lived in Angleton for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

We also learned that Carrie Williams' brother passed away this week. Please keep Mike and Carrie and their families in your prayers during this difficult time.

## Chapter membership

If you've not yet renewed for 2011, please take a few minutes to complete and return the form below, or use the PayPal option found on the [Chapter 15 website](#).

Chapter 15 Membership Application  
New Application / Renewal (circle one)  
Membership Dues are \$10

*You must be a current, 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

## Restoration of a 1927 Style 1 Baby Ben Alarm Clock

Part 3

By Ken Reindel

Last month, we removed the clock back from the copper plating. This month, the story continues...

Once again, our pitted surface follows us. Now it's time for us to deal with it. To do so, we will paint the pitted areas with a special solder paste which will flow into the pits and seal them. We'll then have to surface the solder with fine abrasive paper which leaves the solder ONLY in the lowest lying, pitted areas. Subsequent coats of copper will smooth over the pits and seal in the solder. The next few pictures depict the silver soldering process. You'll notice we selectively avoid getting solder paste anywhere near rear markings, patent numbers, etc. since we want to restore this rear bell in a way that retains all historic markings. We could grind away the steel until the pits are gone. In early experiments, we tried this. The results were so bad that we developed the approach, pictured below, which works *much* better.

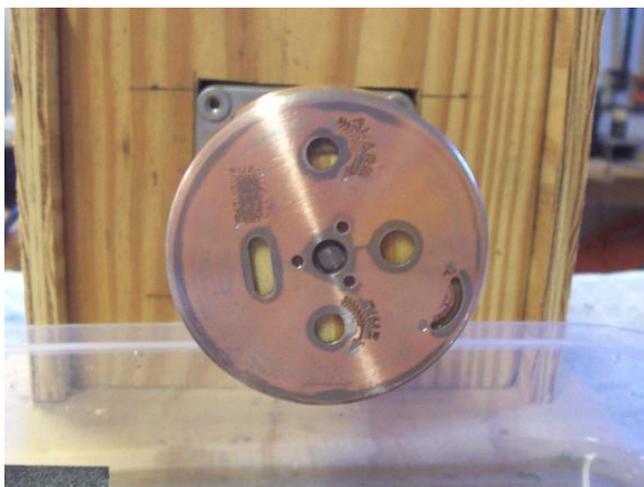


The middle picture is a little blurry, which is what happens when you try to take a picture with camera in your right hand, holding a hot blow torch in your left. On the right is the soldered surface.

The next step is a thorough defluxing for which we use Simple Green in the ultrasonic cleaner, heated to 140°F. The Simple Green cleaner is another way we strive to be environmentally friendly, although it *works* better than anything else we've tried, too! The flux must be thoroughly removed. The slightest residue of flux causes plating problems; therefore, we certainly don't want to grind the flux into the surface in subsequent steps.

What's the gadget in the next picture? You'll remember we noted the importance of the base metal graining. It would have been folly to grain the steel, since the solder operation will obscure any grain. But now the time has come, and this turning machine will help us get it done. Why not use a lathe?

You'll notice the tub of water underneath the turning head. We need to wet sand the part to avoid clogging the fine sandpaper and also to avoid filling the air and shop with metal dust. Expensive horological lathes do not take well to water being dripped onto them. This approach also makes it possible for us to recycle the fine copper and solder filings, again being environmentally friendly.

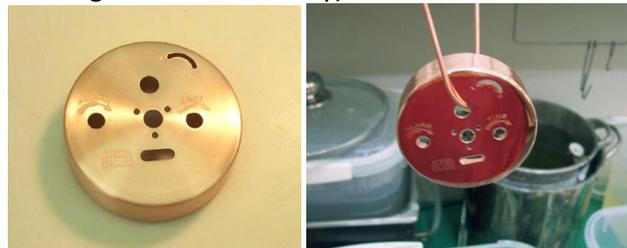


In the picture at the left you can see that the pits have been filled with solder, but NO solder remains anywhere else except in the pits. You'll also notice the radial grain which we've imparted on the metal, so we're on our way to having a restoration that copies the original. We will maintain this grain throughout the remainder of the restoration process. When the part is buffed, the grain will greatly enhance the appearance of the finished part.

Let's stop for a moment and discuss the filling of the pits, a process step we've considered in earnest. Rust pits can tunnel quite deep, much too deep to plate up with copper alone. The approach of filling with silver and plating over is a time-tested and accepted practice in the jewelry industry, so we have honorably adapted it to restoring these fine timepieces. We've seen restorations done in which the pits were not filled but instead were ground away.

In our opinion this is a serious mistake. It takes with it the base metal (and there isn't much to start with on these little clocks), and often eradicates markings, patent dates, trade names, etc. This is not a kind act to bestow upon these fine keepsakes. So, that's why we do the selective filling!

We follow this surfacing with up to 4 more layers of copper, sanding in between each to flatten the pits and other distress marks. Eventually we end up with a piece that looks as shown below left. The pits are gone! But note that all markings have thrived well through the process. In many cases, the markings are more visible after this process because they were previously obscured by corrosion and grime, which are now gone. On the right, after a trip to the buffing machine and a pass through the cleaning process, we're on our way to the nickel plating tank. Apologies; the parts are very reflective after buffing, and I was wearing a red shirt that day).



Here you see the completed rear bell, nickel plated. Lower inset is the inside view, also fully restored. Upper right inset is the "polished before" for comparison.

*(Check back next month to learn the next steps in returning the bezel of this little clock to its former glory.)*

### **Date Change**

Please notice the date changes of our April and May meetings. Due to conflicts with Easter and Memorial Day week-ends, our monthly and annual meetings will be held earlier in the month.

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15  
1105 Lafayette Lane  
Pflugerville TX 78660

**Did you notice?** Several places in this month's issue there are underlined words in blue font. If you are reading the electronic version of the newsletter, all of the blue words are hyperlinks, and clicking on them will take you directly to the internet site being referenced.

### **Save the Date**

- March 26, 10:00 a.m.  
1105 Lafayette Ln, Pflugerville  
It's for Free! Horological premiums and prizes  
Pat Holloway
- **May 14, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Annual meeting, one-day, workshop and program**  
**Coker United Methodist Church**  
**San Antonio**
- April 16, 10:00 a.m.  
Westclox – their history and clocks  
Ken Reindel
- June 8 – 12  
National Convention  
Overland Park, KS
- June 25, 10:00 a.m.  
Chapter program
- May – Make plans now to attend our **annual meeting on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. This year's event is shaping up to be even bigger than last year's with a mart, program and workshop you won't want to miss! All this on top of fantastic friends, fellowship and food! Watch for more details in the April and May issues of *The Mainspring*.
- June – Don't miss this year's National Convention June 8-12. What better chance to attend the National Convention and to meet up with your friends from across the nation. Take advantage of the proximity and the opportunity to drive to beautiful Overland Park Kansas – no more excuses about having to ship that clock home!