

The MAINSPRING

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

President's message

Summer is here! It seems as if we somehow missed Spring here in central Texas this year. It went from Winter to over 100 degrees in an imperceptible time. Thank goodness for air conditioning. Having grown up in the Great Lakes area, it was more typical for us to experience a more gradual transition to the heat. And much more rain. Since we have been in central Texas (11 great years now), we have experienced three droughts. The good news is that it seems like the rainfall eventually catches up. Unfortunately it will be too late for our lawn, which is looking pretty shabby these days! Walking around, it appears that we're not the only ones. Hopefully the rain is coming!

Our Chapter meeting in June was a departure from our usual monthly program, as it touched on a bit more of the personal side. Several members volunteered to present their first clock, as is covered later in this Newsletter. It was interesting how our interests in horology were sparked, and from such diverse perspectives. It was interesting how despite the different perspectives, underneath it we all have something in common that "lit us up" when we encountered that first clock. In a sense, that "something in common" is part of what brings us together as a group.

Speaking of firsts, our first Officer meeting with our new group was very productive. It was a first for our two new members, Tom Tarpy and Gary Sertich. The enthusiasm and interest these new Officers express is very refreshing. I'm looking forward to working with them (and all of you) in the upcoming months as we work to advance our Chapter Mission. July's program will be held at our new Pflugerville site (see references later in this Newsletter). Thanks much to Pat and Jay for ironing out the details surrounding procuring this new facility...it's not easy. We'll make good use of it this month with a round-robin on clock restoration and repair techniques. Many have been asking for more hands-on restoration techniques and methods demonstrations. Well, here they come!

June Program – "The first one..."

On Saturday, June 25th, we learned that "The first one..." for Chapter 15 members ranged from clocks named George and Pierre to watches that had belonged to grandparents and great-grandparents to fantastic antiques and mart finds. Although several regular attendees were out of town, everyone who was able to attend had a great time seeing these first timepieces and hearing the wonderful stories of how they were obtained.

Tom Tarpy, George's new family, shared some of the extensive research he has conducted trying to learn more about George's roots – a search that included sources ranging from northern England to our own NAWCC library. Carolyn Spillers related how she persevered until the very end of an auction, when everyone else had depleted their budgets, to obtain Pierre for \$17. A wonderful French marble clock, his only fault was a missing pendulum – a lack that was quickly remedied by their friend Cecil Mulholland. Not bad for her first clock purchase!



Carolyn, Jay Holloway and Rusty Horn all shared wonderful watches, memories and stories of their relatives who had owned the timepieces. Karen Rasmussen told about her first military watch, obtained when Dan Havlik alerted her to a "good buy" at the Houston Regional a couple of years ago.



Apparently this clock spotting skill was one Dan had learned from an uncle who was an NAWCC member. Dan's first clock, a Mauthe box clock, was purchased from this uncle while he was still in college. He shared stories about his uncle and their clock adventures as

well as some of the research he had done to learn more about this clock's maker.

Ken Reindel showed a Westclox alarm clock. This clock was the same model as the one he knocked off his dad's nightstand when he was six years old. Ken's mom helped him get the screws out of the case and then, incredibly, Ken was able to get the clock running despite a slight issue with the hairspring. And he hasn't stopped repairing and restoring clocks since then!

Gary Sertich brought a Seth Thomas Globe – a wonderful find, and from his perspective, it was purely beginner's luck. Although the movement had been subjected to oiling with some rather suspect substance, all the case needed was a little brass polish on the bezel. Living in Hershey, PA at the time, his journey to learn more about the Seth Thomas company and the style of clock led him to the NAWCC library, much as Tom's search had. In addition to the information he gleaned at the library, by speaking to people in the area where he bought the clock, Gary learned that he is the second owner of the clock, the first being a lumber yard in Lebanon, PA, where it had hung in the "office" area.



After the meeting, several attendees expressed how much they enjoyed seeing the items, learning more about a wide variety of topics, and hearing everyone's stories. Additionally, several members who were unable to attend have told us about what they had planned to bring and expressed their disappointment that they had conflicts. Sounds like we may need to have "The first one... Part 2" at a future date! In the meantime, why not write a quick paragraph or two and submit to The Watch & Clock Bulletin? All you have to do is send it to NAWCC Publications Department, 514 Poplar St., Columbia, PA 17512, or email the write-up and a photo to Editor Diana DeLucca at ddelucca@NAWCC.org.

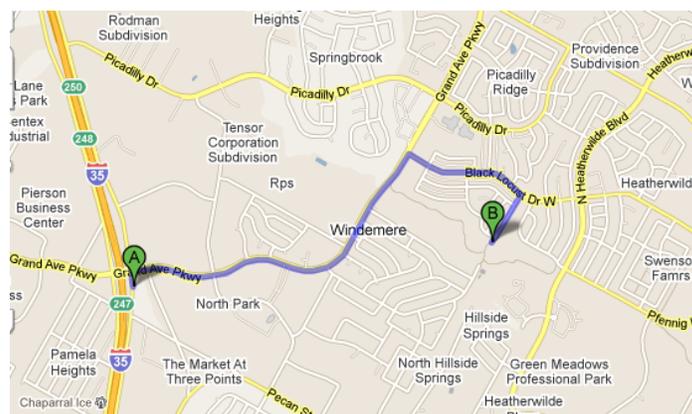
July Program – New Location

After searching for several years, we've found an affordable site in Pflugerville that can accommodate more attendees for our programs, as well as for hands-on workshops. At this time, we've scheduled the site for July, September and October, and we'll be kicking it off with a 2-hour round robin program on Saturday, July 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until noon. As usual, coffee and water will be provided.

Ken Reindel will be giving a demonstration on polishing pivots and bushing clocks. Jay Holloway will be demonstrating simple casting and finishing missing or damaged case parts. Karen Rasmussen will be demonstrating gold leafing on glass. What better opportunity to learn more about a variety of topics? Who knows, maybe these topical introductions will be the foundation for future all day or multi-day workshops.

See you there!

Directions to Windermere Clubhouse at 16800 Gower St., Pflugerville 78660: From I-35, take the Grand Avenue Parkway exit (just north of Wells Branch Parkway exit). Go east about 1.4 miles and turn right on Black Locust Dr. Go about .5 mile and turn right on Gower St. The Windermere Clubhouse is at the end of Gower - 16800 Gower. (Google map below)



2011 National is now history

The 2011 NAWCC National convention kicked off on Wednesday evening with the keynote address by Tom Spittler. The theme of this year's convention was British horology, and Tom's program covered this topic from the perspective of clocks while the watches were discussed during Dennis Radage's program to the British Horology Chapter. The exhibit also carried through on the theme.

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Account	\$7,116.83
Dues and annual meeting*	373.00
*expenses included in May totals	\$7,489.83
Regional Account	\$4,263.60

The next morning was a time for various committee meetings and workshops as well as unloading and setup of the mart room. Those who were not involved in these activities had time to take in some of the local sights (and cuisine) or to catch up with other members. Then came the long anticipated announcement that the Mart Room was open, and everyone got down to business.

Chapter 15 was very well represented again this year with over 30 members and spouses in attendance. We've heard great stories about some excellent finds, old friendships renewed and wonderful sightseeing.

Field Suitcase Workshops Lathe Series

There are plans underway for the lathe series of Field Suitcase Workshops (F200, F201 and F202) to be held in Central Texas. These workshops begin with F200 – Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair: Part I (metal working skills) to be offered Thursday – Sunday, December 1 – 4, 2011 in College Station. F201 (Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair: Part II) will develop lathe skills using a hand graver and F202 (Lathe II Skills) will add to those skills through the use of a cross slide. F201 and F202 will follow F200 at approximately six month intervals.

If you'd like to learn more about the specifics covered in each workshop, you can see the details on the [NAWCC website](#). Class size is limited, so if you are interested in taking advantage of these great workshops, please contact Don Bugh by phone at 979-690-2736 or email at d-bugh@suddenlink.net.

Annual meeting outstanding topics

During our annual meeting in May, there was preliminary discussion about several proposed changes to the by-laws: 1) an increase in dues for 2012 to help cover the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, 2) the possibility of spouses serving concurrently *in certain roles* and 3) reducing the number of directors. The recommended changes for numbers 2 and 3 are due to the number of people who are willing or able to serve in leadership roles.

Over the next several months, you will hear more about the proposed recommendations and will have an opportunity to provide feedback before the finalized recommendations are presented for a vote.

Meet new Chapter 15 officer – Tom Tarpy, Treasurer



I have been an active clock collector for almost 25 years. I prefer clocks, though I do have a few pocket watches in my collection. I prefer American clocks to work on, as they seem to be much more "forgiving" to my limited repair skills, but I do have a fair number of foreign clocks in my collection. Because of limited space for display, I usually only acquire one or two examples of a clock type. For example, I have 2 Viennas, and am unlikely to collect any more unless I dispose of either or both.

I am retired from the Insurance/re-insurance business where I spent most of my time in underwriting management. We have lived in Austin for over 5 years to be near our daughters and 2 grandchildren. We moved here from the Phoenix area where we lived for almost 12 years. Prior to that, we had homes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and California.

Current Board Members Contact Information

President – Ken Reindel

President@nawcc-chapter15.org

Vice-President – Bob Rasmussen

VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org

Treasurer – Tom Tarpy

Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org

Secretary – Pat Holloway

Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

Director of Programs – Gary Sertich

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Save the Date

- **July 23**, 10:00 a.m.
Chapter program – Round robin demos
Windermere Clubhouse
16800 Gower St., Pflugerville
See details and directions on page 2
- **September 24**, 10:00 a.m.
Chapter program
Windermere Clubhouse, Pflugerville
- **November**
Chapter potluck
- **August 26 – 28**
All Texas Regional
J.W. Marriott, Houston
- **October 22**, 10:00 a.m.
Chapter program
Windermere Clubhouse, Pflugerville
- **December**
No Chapter meeting
December 1-4 Lathe FSW in College Station
See details on page3