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Save the date

February 20

6 p.m. – National Instruments
 Joint Chapter 15/IEEE meeting
 100 Years of Synchronized
 Timekeeping in the USA

February 25

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Open house
 Bea Copeland’s, San Antonio

March

10:00 a.m. Chapter program
 Mary Ellen Bell
 Windermere Clubhouse
 16800 Gower, Pflugerville

Current Board Members

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
Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President’s Message

Dear Members,

We are having a very busy start to the New Year in Chapter 15. I’d like to thank Jay Holloway for a very nice presentation on the origins of the Grandfather Clock for our meeting in late January. It was interesting that the term “Grandfather Clock” has only been around for a little over a century. Since I was a child, I clearly recall that folks referred to nearly every clock as a Grandfather clock. Any floor standing clock was a Grandfather clock. But I also recall (what we know as) early American kitchen clocks referred to as Grandfather clocks. I’ve even heard wall clocks referred to under that name. And, it seems that any time I describe clock repair to others, they ask, “Do you work on Grandfather clocks?” Bottom line is it seems to be one of the most misunderstood terms in horology. So, thanks to Jay, we now have a much clearer idea of what qualifies as a Grandfather clock!

Mark your calendars for February 20th. We are going to be hosting the IEEE in a joint meeting between the local Instrumentation Chapter and our NAWCC Chapter 15. We’ll be talking about 100 Years of Synchronized Timekeeping in the USA. The program will include a brief history of timekeeping. Ever wonder how it was that we ended up with 24 hours in a day, 365 days in a year, even the minute and second? Did you ever hear of the Leap Second? Have you ever wondered how our world keeps time in unison despite multiple time zones and the distances between them? Those topics are among the mysteries that we’ll be investigating in our talk on the 20th. The meeting will be held at National Instruments on North Mopac. It will start at 6pm and will include a light meal. Hope to see you there.

Then on February 25th, Bea Copeland has graciously invited us to an open house from 1pm – 3pm at her home in San Antonio. Rather than a formal program, we’ll have time to visit and browse through Bea’s collection. Several of our members will be available to answer questions and tell us more about various clocks. Light refreshments will be served.

Addresses and driving directions for both February events will be provided in the email reminders later this month. In the meantime, if you have questions or are interested in carpooling to San Antonio, please contact Jay or Pat Holloway at 512 252 3881.

Coming soon...Chapter 15 Annual Meeting

Be sure to mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 28th. This year’s meeting will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse in Pflugerville. During the business meeting, we will be voting on several changes to the bylaws. For a refresher on the proposed changes, please see the November newsletter.

Chapter membership renewal

It's time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2012. Payment can be made by check or with the PayPal option on the Chapter 15 website.

Chapter membership

If you've not yet renewed for 2012, 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 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

Restoring wood alarm clock cases

Part 3: Coloring, final finish and rubbing out

~ Ken Reindel

For purposes of our article, we want to recommend lacquer toners. A good general tone for darkening the shade of a piece is Behlen Medium Brown Walnut. It can be applied to any wood, and will have a similar effect of darkening the color. If you prefer to add reds, there are numerous other lacquer toner colors available and it might be a good idea to buy a few cans and test them by dusting a coat on a mylar transparency and then laying the "toned" mylar transparency over the case to gauge what the color effect will be. You can also practice for how much toner you are going to need to achieve the desired result by applying multiple coats to the transparency until you are satisfied with the color.

It is worthy of note that it is also possible to do shading with these toners. By applying more toner to the edges of the article, it will darken the edges and leave the "field" of the case lighter, which if done properly, can yield a truly stunning look. If you are not confident in your ability to do this, then simply strive to achieve an even coat of toner across the entire piece and leave it at that. On smaller articles like our project, this is just as well.

Once you are satisfied with the color "formula," it is time to apply the color directly to the article. Again, before applying the toner to the piece, be sure to apply a coat of 3 lb shellac. This can be brushed on carefully, allowed to dry for 24 hours, then sanded with #400 Wetordry paper. You must "wet" sand with mineral spirits as this will help keep the paper from clogging and yield a much better finish. Always be careful not to over-sand. This is not desirable as it risks blotching once the toner is applied. Once done, wipe away the mineral spirits thoroughly with a clean cloth and then let the piece air dry for 2 hours before attempting to apply the lacquer toner.

Always be careful when you sand shellac, as it is rather soft, especially on the edges, which tend to sand through easily. If you break through, you are better off applying another coat of shellac on everything and repeating. If you don't, you are risking that the toner will stain the wood and leave an uneven finish. It's worth the extra coat to avoid any issues with uneven color. Just remember to be careful

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Account	\$7,245.34
Exp: Jan. Newsletter	-18.12
Inc: Membership renewal (net of PayPal fees)	<u>178.52</u>
Balance	\$7,405.74
Regional Account	\$4,163.60



next time with the sanding, especially as you approach the edges of the piece. This picture illustrates sanding in between coats of shellac. Note the Mineral Spirits

being used to lubricate. Without this you will clog the sandpaper and this will leave scratches in the surface, so it is fairly important.

Apply the toner carefully--almost in successive light dustcoats. If you apply a heavy coat, you risk it running or dripping, which will leave color blotches and is almost impossible to correct.

Once the toner has had 12-24 hours to set, you are ready to apply the finish coats. Most often, we use shellac finish. With shellac, we generally apply 6-8 topcoats over the color, allowing 24 hours drying time between coats. You can alternatively use satin Behlen spray lacquer. You will probably need to apply 3-4 coats of spray lacquer finish, allowing 24 hours in between coats. Again, it is key to be careful around edges to avoid breaking through the clear coats, which could be a disaster to the color. If you sand through the toner, you will again have color problems. Also, you will want to sand the finish with 400 or 600 Wetordry paper, again, lubricating with mineral spirits, wiping every trace away and allowing 2 hours for the mineral spirits to fully evaporate, before applying the successive coats.

Once you have completed 3-4 coats of spray lacquer finish, you can either consider the job done, or you can proceed with rubbing out the finish for an incredible look.

In our example, we chose to go with a very light dustcoat of mahogany brown toner, and 8



successive finish coats of shellac. The result is shown to the left. You will note that after sufficient topcoats of finish, there is a "glow" and "depth"

to the finish. The beauty of the wood "pops" through. It has taken time, and a great deal of patience. But you'll be feeling pretty proud of the work you've accomplished so far.

If your article is very small, and you used satin lacquer as the finish, chances are you'll be pretty happy with the finish and tempted to stop after the application of the final spray coat of lacquer. But if you used shellac, you probably brushed on the finish. You will want to apply at least 6 to 8 coats of shellac, sanding in between coats and allowing ample drying time between coats (24 hours recommended). One important factor to consider is the "flattening" of each coat. For the first 4 coats or so, we like to use 400-600 wetordry paper to remove any imperfections as the shellac builds over the grain of the wood. For the final 3-4 coats, we use 800 wetordry because, as you build the final coats in preparation for rubbing out, you do not want to risk breaking through the finish on successive coats. The 800 paper will be a little less aggressive and will tend to allow more build, which again, is needed for rubbing out. After the final coat of shellac, you will move on to rubbing out the finish to achieve a gorgeous final result.



To start the process, proceed as before. Using mineral spirits as the lubricant, thoroughly sand all the nibs and imperfections out of the finish with wetordry paper. We generally go a grade lighter and prefer 800 or even 1000 for the final finish coat. Once you have done that, you can mix up the pumice-mineral oil slurry.

You might recall in the beginning of the article we recommended Behlen products. Here again, we prefer Behlen mineral oil and #3 Pumice. These two compounds are mixed together in a small plastic dish until a paste is formed. You won't need but enough to smear the bottom of the plastic dish.

The idea is to "charge" a clean cloth with the slurry. Then, apply to the piece in long strokes with the cloth, always with the grain of the wood. You will get the feel of it quite quickly. But don't be too aggressive, especially on the edges. As always you do not want to rub through the edges.

After rubbing out the finish, a wax protective coat is recommended. A good quality brown paste finishing wax is recommended for most dark articles. For very light woods, or blonde finishes, a clear wax can be applied. It's good to have a small container of each around. Buy the resealable type that is supplied in a tin dish. (continued on page 4)

Spot a clock



Many of you may have sighted this iconic San Antonio clock on the corner of St. Mary's and Houston Street. Others who may not have spotted the clock in person were able to learn more about its history and restoration at our October 2009 Chapter meeting when Ed Gaida, San Antonio historian and author discussed public clocks in the San Antonio area.

If you've never seen this E Howard No 1 clock and have a little extra time when we have our meeting in San Antonio, you may want to check out the clock.

Thanks to Jerry Brazil, who assisted with the restoration, for providing this great photograph.

You won't want to miss our May program when you will learn more about street clocks. In the meantime, send along photos of clocks you may see when you're out and about.

Restoring wood alarm clock cases

(Conclusion)

The wax will stay fresh for many years. Follow the label instructions on application. It is fairly straightforward. The wax is applied in a thin coat, allowed to stand for a few minutes, and then finally polished off with a clean cloth.

The Final Result : Here we provide before and after pictures as illustration of the dramatic impact that case restoration can provide.



Before

After

