

# The MAINSPRING

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

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## Save the date

### July 21

Basic clock repair workshop  
Joint workshop with the CAWCG  
Windermere Clubhouse  
16800 Gower St., Pflugerville

### July 28

10:00 a.m. Chapter program  
Welch, Spring and Company  
Jay Holloway  
Windermere Clubhouse  
16800 Gower St., Pflugerville

### August 18/19

Self Winding Clock Company class  
Ken's Clock Clinic  
Cedar Park

### August 23-25

All Texas Chapters Regional  
Houston

## Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel  
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Vice-President – Jay Holloway  
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Secretary – Pat Holloway  
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Director of Programs – Gary Sertich  
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## President's Message

Dear Members,

It seems like time is flying by, and here we are, already having returned from the NAWCC National.

This year's National was held at the Pasadena Convention Center, which is a beautiful multi-building facility in downtown Pasadena. It seems that every attempt has been made to preserve the architecture of the original buildings, while expanding to meet the increasing demands of today's business. There was plenty of room for the various exhibits, meetings and marts associated with the planned NAWCC activities.

The Pasadena weather was fantastic. Mornings were cool and the afternoons warmed up just a bit. It made for enjoyable early morning walks through the local Pasadena neighborhoods. It was a welcomed relief from the record 100+ temperatures being experienced in Austin in June.

Chapter 133, the Western Electrics, was the host and so as you would expect the exhibit was all about electrics. There were some wonderful examples of various electrics from the more ubiquitous Self Winding Clock Company to more obscure Regina impulse table models. Chapter 133 did a very nice job of creating a very friendly and welcoming exhibit, complete with a self-guided tour.

In the same exhibit room, the Craft Competition was held. There were some stunning examples of horological craftsmanship including the "Complicated Clock" consisting of gorgeous hand-made and polished movement driving two dials, two pendulums swinging in resonance, fashioned into a finely crafted hand-rubbed case with beveled glass all around. This unique clock actually displays both solar and sidereal time in unison. It was a work of art.

An 18-inch skeletonized 4-dial clock powered by an E. Howard street clock movement punctuated the winning exhibits. Many of us were hovering around this unusual piece in curiosity, inasmuch as Don Bugh's presentation on street clocks last month stirred our interest.

There were also some quite incredible examples of hand-made horological depthing and bushing tools.

In my opinion, this year's Craft Competition award winners represented some of the best horological craftsmanship I've seen in many years. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Also on display was Edward Beacham's phenomenal Prague Astronomical Clock replica. At the Convention Keynote, Ed presented the intriguing story of the Prague clock, which dates back to the 1400s!

Probably the most rewarding part of the National was visiting with our friends and fellow Chapter 15 members who made the long trip to

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Message (continued)

Pasadena. Thanks to all those who attended. We were well represented in Pasadena!

Thanks to Jay and Lane Holloway, our new Chapter 15 Website is built and ready to be linked. Thanks again for your hard work on this important upgrade!

We have a very busy schedule upcoming for the next few months, so fasten your seat belts. Of course, before you know it, the All Texas Chapters Regional in Houston will be upon us. With Pat's help we have summarized the various events planned over the next few months:

- July 14 – Joint CAWCG/Chapter 15 pocket watch repair class has been rescheduled for the fall
- July 14/15 – Painting/stenciling workdays
- July 21 – Joint CAWCG/Chapter 15 Basic clock repair class in Pflugerville
- July 28 – Program: Welch, Spring and Company presented by Jay Holloway
- August 18/19 – SWCC workshop in Cedar Park
- August 24/25 – All Texas Chapters Regional in Houston (if anyone missed Don Bugh's tower clock presentation, or want to hear more, here's your chance)
- Dave Arnold has agreed to do a program on the UT Tower Clock in the fall.

Chapter 15 continues to offer a wide variety of top quality educational offerings, living up to our commitment!

## Member news

We learned late last month that longtime NAWCC and Chapter 15 member Nino Gonzales passed away on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Nino was well known in the Austin area as the go-to man for cuckoo clock repairs and questions, and he was always willing to share lathe work tips and tricks. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

## Painting and stenciling workdays

The next painting and stenciling workdays will be Saturday and Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Like to hear more, or join us for an informal time to work on projects such as these?



Contact Pat Holloway for details on upcoming workdays.

## Upcoming events

### July 14<sup>th</sup> – Rescheduled to fall 2012

Joint **Basic Pocket Watch Repair** class with The Capitol Area Clockmakers and Watchmakers Guild (CAWCG) at the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches. For additional information, please contact Jay Holloway by email at [jay@hollowaytrading.com](mailto:jay@hollowaytrading.com) or by phone at (512) 294-7371.

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** – Joint **Basic Clock Repair** class with CAWCG at the Windermere Clubhouse in Pflugerville. The cost for this one-day class is \$25, which must be paid to reserve a spot in the class. For additional information or to register, please contact Dave Arnold by email at [darnold@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:darnold@mail.utexas.edu) or by phone: (512) 694-5820.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter 15 program on Welch, Spring and Company by Jay Holloway at the Windermere Clubhouse, 16800 Gower, Pflugerville.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>** – **Self-Winding Clock Company Repair Class**. To register, contact Ken Reindel at [ken@kensclockclinic.com](mailto:ken@kensclockclinic.com) or by phone at 216-410-1455. The cost for the two-day class is \$100.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** – **All Texas Chapters Regional** in Houston. Chapter 15 is a cohost for this great Regional, so if you'd like to pitch in and lend a hand, please contact Pat at [pwholloway@suddenlink.net](mailto:pwholloway@suddenlink.net). A great exhibit of horological novelties, advertising and ephemera and a wide variety of programs are scheduled. There will be something for everyone. Make plans now to attend!

Treasurer's Report		
<b>Chapter Account</b>		<b>\$7,179.40</b>
<b>Exp:</b>	June Newsletter 15.86	
	New Chapter website 119.40	
		-135.26
<b>Inc:</b>	Membership and renewals	<u>75.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$7,119.14</b>
<b>Regional Account</b> (unchanged)		<b>\$4,163.60</b>

## Waterbury Watch Company

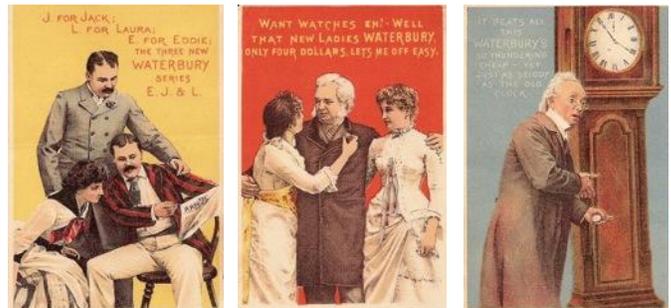
On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pat Holloway presented a program on the history of the Waterbury Watch Company and shared some of their advertising materials. Their story began in 1877 when Edward Locke and George Merritt offered D.A.A. Buck \$100 to invent an affordable watch. Mr. Buck was a jeweler and watchmaker who had built a fully functional steam engine that could fit under a thimble. By 1878 Mr. Buck had come up with a design for a rotary movement watch with only 58 parts. The three men took the watch to Benedict and Burnham Manufacturing in Naugatuck, Connecticut, where Charles Benedict saw the possibilities of this watch and moved toward production. After some experimentation and fine-tuning, in 1880 Benedict and Burnham organized the Waterbury Watch Company to produce these watches that could be sold for less than \$4.00 each.

One of the key features of these early watches was a nine-foot long spring that required two minutes of stem winding each day. Although the watch was a fairly accurate timekeeper and was affordable, it became the brunt of many jokes due to this long-winding feature. The first watches had a skeletonized dial that allowed you to watch the rotary movement as it turned within the watchcase once each hour.

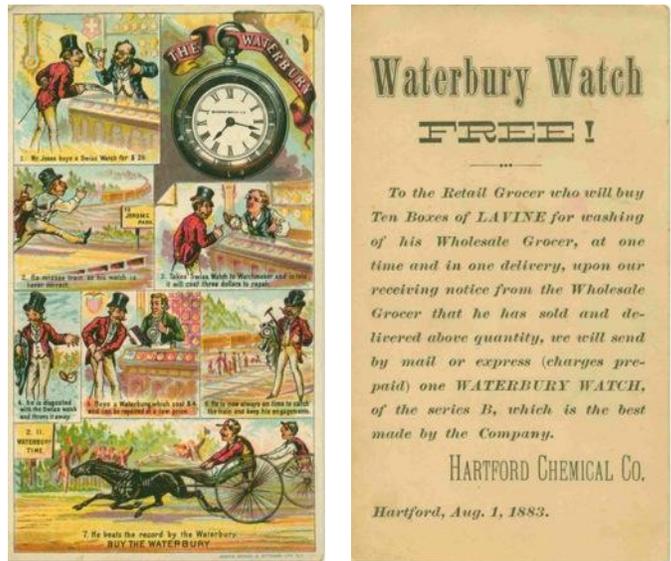


Many Waterbury watches were sold to merchants for use as premiums or incentives to purchase goods or magazine subscriptions. Unfortunately, the goods were not always top quality, so the watch came to be associated with shoddy goods and began to lose favor. To combat this, a short wind watch was introduced and marketing strategies included watches for men and women as well as young boys. A variety of trade cards and promotional booklets were created to market these watches, but by 1898 the company was reorganized and became the New England Watch Company.

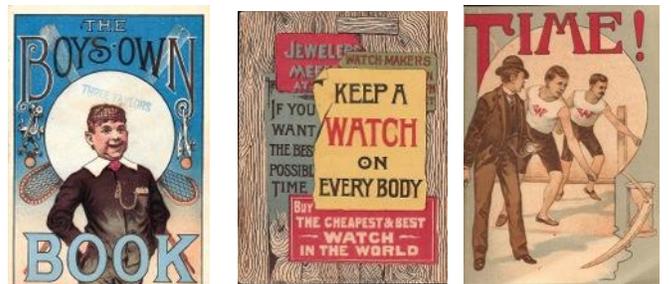
As part of the program, Pat passed around examples of several of the early watches, including a Series E, the last of the long wind rotary movement watches. As we each took a turn winding for a while, we were able to experience the drawbacks of Waterbury's "eternal spring." The presentation concluded with a time to view some of the company's trade cards and booklets, some of which included promotional offers.



Trade cards



Trade card with promotional offer on reverse



Promotional booklets

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### Spot a clock

This month, Spot a clock moves from Mary Ellen Bell's sighting in Russia to Don White's sighting of the astronomical clock in Prague. This clock was the inspiration for Ed Beacham's Keynote program and his replica on exhibit at this year's National. Thanks Don for sharing these pictures from your visit to Prague!

