



Contents

President’s Message..... 1
 Upcoming events..... 2
 Chapter membership renewal... 2
 2013 National Convention..... 3
 November meeting..... 3
 Spot a clock..... 4

Save the date

January 26

Chapter 15 Program – 10 a.m.
 Connecticut Horology – Pat
 Holloway
 Windermere Clubhouse
 16800 Gower
 Pflugerville TX 78660

January 27

Painting/stenciling workday – 9 – 5
 1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville

February 23

Chapter 15 Program – 10 a.m.
 Willard Clocks – Jay Holloway
 TBD

March 1-2

Lone Star Regional
 Mesquite, TX

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

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President’s Message

Dear Members,

I want to start by wishing you all the best and happiest New Year as we start 2013. And, it looks like the weather is more like we’d expect this time of year: a bit brisk during the morning walks but quite comfortable once that Texas sun peeks out from behind the clouds. We’ve even seen some snow in some parts of Texas over the last few weeks. In fact, Dallas had a White Christmas, and right here in Hill Country a few snowflakes were spotted in the air early last Friday morning.

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season. Now that the holidays are over, we are ready to get back to our monthly program presentations. As you’ll see later in this newsletter, Pat Holloway will be doing the January program on Connecticut horology. In February, Jay Holloway will report on Simon Willard clocks.

February 28 to March 2 brings us the Lone Star Regional in Mesquite. Our neighbors in the Dallas area are promising some great educational programs. Included on the agenda are Mike Dempsey’s Horological Wheel and Pinion Cutting, Richard Cox on Making Unusual Clock Gears, a special presentation by Fred Tischler on French Clocks, and an encore presentation of Don Bugh’s Street Clock Project. Hope to see you there.

Sadly, over the holidays our country was shocked by the horrific tragedy in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. As you might know, this is one of the worst of its kind in US history. It brought back feelings we had during the Columbine, CO incident. I have an older brother in Littleton, CO whose children were school age at that time but very fortunately and thankfully not at that school during the incident. Sandy Hook resonated across the country, and we certainly felt the shock waves at Ken’s Clock Clinic.

One of our dear customers (we have customers all over the world) sent us a Sessions Westminster Chime mantle clock which needed a great deal of restoration including rewinding the chime coil, rewiring, case relacquering, dial, hands, and the usual movement restoration work. He wanted to give it to his wife for Christmas and we were getting close. The morning of December 14 brought news over the radio of the tragedy in Connecticut. Within a few hours I made the connection between the Sessions Chime clock and Sandy Hook: our customer is a resident of Sandy Hook Connecticut, and in fact lives less than 3 miles from the elementary school there!

Immediately I attempted to make contact with the customer but to no avail. In addition to the tremendous sadness we felt over the victims and their families, we were now in a state of concern over the safety of our

(Continued on page 2)

President’s Message (continued)

customer. Two days later, our customer contacted us. He was still reeling from the event, noticeably disturbed. When he told us his personal story we understood why.

It turns out that our customer an employee of the Sandy Hook school system. He was in fact on his way to the elementary school that morning when he received a call that a part he had ordered had arrived at one of the other schools. So at the last minute he changed plans and went elsewhere. Otherwise, he would have been right there when the shooter broke into the elementary school. Thankfully he was OK.

I recalled how I felt when the 9/11 attacks occurred—and realized that my wife was on a plane heading for Houston during the attacks, and how I drove to Houston to retrieve her when the FAA grounded all flights that fateful morning.

We are lucky to live in a world with so much wonder and good. We have much to be thankful for. But so frequently we collectively find ourselves playing dodge ball with tragedy and disaster. That’s when we realize how truly fortunate we’ve been.

Upcoming events

January 26th – Chapter 15 program

The first program of 2013 will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Windermere Clubhouse in Pflugerville. Pat Holloway will give a program on Connecticut Horology. We’ve had a few programs in the past couple of years on Connecticut horologists, but this program will provide an overview of the far-reaching impact of a multitude of individuals and inventions. ***This will be a very interactive program with lots of audience participation, so start brushing up now on your knowledge of Connecticut horology!***

January 27th – Painting & stenciling workday

We will have one painting and stenciling workday this month on Sunday, January 27th. The workday will be held at the Holloways’ in Pflugerville. If you’re interested in attending, please contact Pat Holloway (pwholloway@suddenlink.net or 512-252-3881). Hope to see you there!

February 23rd – Chapter 15 program

Jay Holloway is preparing a very interesting presentation on Simon Willard and his clocks. You won’t want to miss this program.

February 10th – Painting & stenciling workday

Chapter membership renewal

It’s that time again – time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2013. Payment can be made by check or with the PayPal option on the Chapter 15 website. If you have an email address, please consider receiving your newsletter electronically.

Chapter membership	
If you’ve not yet renewed for 2013, 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 \$15 <i>You must be a current, paid NAWCC member to join a Chapter. You may be a member of more than one Chapter.</i>	
<u>Please Print or Type</u>	
NAME:	_____
SPOUSE’S NAME:	_____
STREET:	_____
CITY:	_____
STATE/COUNTRY:	_____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL:	_____
PHONE:	_____
NAWCC Member #	_____
HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS:	_____
<u> </u> <i>Please send my Chapter newsletter by email.</i>	
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	
Chapter Account	\$7,133.51
Inc: Member renewals (less PayPal fees)	44.37
Exp: None	-00.00
Balance	\$7,177.88
Regional Account (no change)	\$4,063.60

2013 National Convention

It's not too late to make plans to attend this year's National Convention. This year's Convention is being held in Dayton, OH, over the 4th of July holiday, so you may not even have to use many vacation days to attend!

There is a great slate of speakers planned. With 2013 being the 200th anniversary of The Seth Thomas Clock Company, what better way to mark this milestone than to have several of the programs focusing on this great company. Ian Roome kicks off the convention on Wednesday evening with "200 Years of Seth Thomas." Other programs in this theme are "Seth Thomas Perpetual Clocks" that includes an identification guide and "Seth Thomas Regulators." If Seth Thomas isn't your cup of tea, there are also programs on the "Evolution of Travel Clocks" (carriage clocks), "Spending Time with Dueber-Hampden" (watches) and "Neon Clocks – The Ohio Connection" (neon clocks).

If nothing in this line-up piques your interest, there are generally national Chapter meetings that are open to everyone. These meetings often have very interesting programs on such topics as British Horology, tower clocks, and horological art. Most of the meeting times are included in the convention schedule that is included in the registration packet.

And, in the event that you aren't able to attend, many of the programs are recorded by members of the National Program Committee and will be available for check out from the Library and Research Center.

November meeting

Although the November meeting date was changed to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving holidays, an enthusiastic group was in attendance. Jay Holloway presented a program on neon clocks, an often overlooked and little discussed group of fascinating timepieces. During the presentation, Jay discussed the evolution of neon clocks and the many companies that made them, as well as a history of neon lighting.



One of the most recognizable names in neon clocks is the Electric Neon Clock Company, also known as Cleveland Clocks. This company was in business from the 30s through the 50s. They produced many styles, some of which had advertising on a marquis around the clock. Because of the eye-appeal and popularity of these clocks, they are highly sought after and are also being reproduced.

A discussion about the companies making the entire clock including the electric motors led to the truth that all the electric motors were made by a small number of companies. The quality of the motors varied by the company.

Time was spent discussing the difference in neon and fluorescent lighting, which is a totally different form of advertising signage.

In the United States, neon lighting has been around since the 1920s. The various neon light colors depend on the type of gas that fills the glass tube. One of the ways that neon differs from fluorescent lighting is that in fluorescent tubes the color is due to a coating on the inside of the glass.

The thread that ties all the companies together was that they focused on advertising. The bright colorful signage was a great success during the late 1940s into the 1960s when they began to be associated with the decline of the inner city areas.

Jay's presentation included many pictures of clocks made by various companies, and included shots of some that belong to Chapter 15

members. If you'd like to learn more about neon clocks, or just to see pictures of some of these amazing, you can check with Jay or search the Internet by entering antique or vintage neon clocks in the Google Images search box. Additionally, if you're attending this year's National Convention in Dayton, OH, schedule time to attend Patti Moore's program on "Neon Clocks – The Ohio Connection."



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Spot a clock

In preparation for this month's program on Connecticut horology, our Spot a clock features some Connecticut products spotted at the Museum in Bristol along with a couple of Connecticut-made watches.



Waterbury regulator



Street clock at American Clock & Watch Museum



Litchfield clock



Waterbury Clock Co. "Jumbo" watch designed by Archibald Bannatyne



William Fenn hand-cut stencil



E.N. Welch Columbus watch