

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

June 22

Chapter 15 Program – 10 a.m.
The Problem with Magnets
Pat Holloway
Pok-e-Jo's - 2121 Parmer, Austin

July 3-6

NAWCC National Convention
Dayton, Ohio
Schedule can be found on the
NAWCC website home page

July 27

Chapter 15 Program – 10 a.m.
Glass Cutting tips and tricks
Don Bugh
Pok-e-Jo's - 2121 Parmer, Austin

August 23-24

Unloading and set up – August 22
All Texas Chapters Regional
Marriott Westchase
2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

Vice-President – Jay Holloway
VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org

Treasurer – Tom Tarpay
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Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

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President's Message

Dear Members,

We're all very thankful for the bit of rain we've experienced over the last few weeks. It's nice to wake up to cooler temperatures. We seem to be benefitting from a relatively wet spring with green lawns and flourishing landscapes. But it doesn't seem the rain is having much of an impact on lake levels, which continue to be 30-35 ft below "normal" levels. Mother Nature seems to have a way of correcting herself over time. If that's true, then it follows that we're due for a good deal of rain around here some time in the future!

For our last meeting, I was unfortunately unable to be present. But I did want to share with you where I was. I took a trip to San Mateo for the annual Maker Faire. This incredible event is a testimony to innovation and the "make it yourself" spirit. It is alive and well in this country. In fact, it is growing! The event, held on the San Mateo Fairgrounds, is one of the most vibrant of its kind in the world. And the crowd was testimony to it. There were displays of innovative easy to use computer boards, electronic gadgets, "cupcake girls" (motorized oversized cupcakes driving all over the place), high school electric car projects (yes, real cars), lighting and displays, hovercrafts, and lots of children's hands-on activities.

The crowd was unbelievably huge. There were times you couldn't even move from place to place. It was fortunate that we came early since by the afternoon you could not even get access into some of the display buildings—the crowds were THAT dense! But the wonderful aspect of it was it demonstrated to me that there is plenty of life in the innovative American spirit. It was exciting to see so many children and young adults engaging their minds in these ventures.

Mini Maker Faires are held in Austin periodically. It might be worth your time to visit one. It might also be worthwhile for our Chapter to set up a booth there. As I've stated many times, the study of horology is as much an on-ramp to interest in technology and science as any other I've seen. In any case, check out the Maker site at <http://www.makerfaire.com>

We have several interesting topics to communicate this month.

Reading the NAWCC Directors' Newsletter this week I was pleased to see a report that the traffic on the NAWCC Message Board continues to increase. This is really great news! It reflects a couple of exciting things. First, it shows that interest in horology remains vibrant. Second, it is in itself evidence of the good number of folks willing to volunteer their time and energy to help others with questions related to a broad number of topics in this area. If you haven't already tried it out, you should give it a look at <http://mb.nawcc.org>.

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President's Message (cont.)

Towards the end of June we will be embarking on a trip to Cleveland and vicinity. You can guess that the "vicinity" includes Dayton, Ohio and a visit to the NAWCC National Convention there. While it is always interesting to visit the National Convention, we are personally excited as Ohio natives to be visiting with relatives who still live there. It will be an important trip for us. Of course, the NAWCC National Convention is always a great event and I encourage all that can to go and enjoy the convention, the Dayton area, and cooler Ohio temperatures. Pre-registration is rapidly upon us, so register soon to avoid the higher rates which occur after June 15. It's always nicer to be in the Mart rather than waiting in line to register.

In addition to a great Mart, this year's National will feature educational programs planned for the entire week. July 4th features a list of interesting one-day workshops on topics ranging from hand engraving, pocket watch repair, clock case repair (taught by our own Jay Holloway), and many others.

Lastly, the NAWCC recently completed its elections. For those who may not already know, the new Board includes several from our neighbor Texas chapters. The Board now consists of Ruth Overton, Gene Volk, Jerry Thornsberry who were re-elected and Chet Ekstrand, Tim Orr, and George Goolsby, the most recently elected Board of Director members. These newly elected members join Tom Bartels, Mike Dempsey, Phil Gregory, Mary Ann Wahlner, David Lee and David Dunn whose terms expire in 2015.

Upcoming Programs. I encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings held the last week of the month at Pok-e-Jo's off Parmer (10am start time). If you haven't met our new members, it's a great chance to do so. Every month interesting programs are presented. In May, everyone brought a horological-related item beginning with M to talk about. It made for a lively and interesting discussion! Everyone had fun and then enjoyed a great barbecue lunch afterwards.

This month's program will be held on June 22nd. Pat Holloway will lead a discussion entitled "The Problem with Magnets." Then, in July, we have the National and Don Bugh's program on Glass Cutting, which includes a brief history of glass making (I've heard this one is exceptional!). August is the All Texas Regional in Houston. Some very interesting home tours are being planned for September or October.

We'll keep you posted once more information is available.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,761.33
Inc: Member renewals and class	84.04
Exp: Newsletter and postage	-57.59
Balance	\$7,787.78
Regional Account	\$3,963.60
No change	
Balance	\$3,963.60

Annual Meeting

If you missed this year's annual meeting, you missed a fantastic program and silent auction. Ken



Reindel presented a program called "Buyer Be Aware" where he outlined tips on what to look for when quickly assessing a clock for purchase. After the program,

he demonstrated the tips with a few of the clocks that were included in the silent auction.

Armed with this knowledge, bidding on the auction items really picked up. By the end of the meeting, everyone seemed quite pleased with his or her purchases, and we're already starting to hear some success stories on several clocks that just needed a little TLC. We're looking forward to seeing some pictures and hearing about the process in bringing these treasures back to life.



May Program

Chapter 15's May meeting was a slight departure from the normal programs. Each attendee brought a horological item that started with the letter M. Although some admitted that they had a little trouble coming up with anything that fit the bill, once they got started, it seemed that everywhere they looked they discovered another M-item. In fact, they soon realized that some of the items had more than one M word. In fact, it seems that this program turned out to be "MMM-MMM good"!

Don White brought an unusual movement stand that can be adjusted to accommodate a wide variety of movements. Pat Tarpy brought an unusual Masonic watch that they had picked up on a silent auction table – and she also provided a magnifying glass so we could get a better look. Hmm – should we give her points for another M word?



Tom Tarpy shared a wonderful Nicholas Muller clock along with a synopsis of his work and his relationship with Florenz Kroeber. He also brought along examples of mainsprings, complete with a brief history of the mainspring.



Dan Havlik and Charlotte shared some beautiful art deco mirrored clocks. These clocks came



in a variety of colors and shapes, and some had different functions, including alarms and indicators to let you know when there had been an electric outage.

Several attendees could remember seeing clocks similar to these when they were growing up, and explained how the power outage indicators worked.

In addition to Pat Tarpy's Masonic watch, Jay Holloway brought a Masonic fob, an example of a different style Masonic watch, a mainspring winder and clamps, and a micrometer. Pat Holloway had watch mainsprings, antique mainspring tins and a Dueber-Hampden Molly Stark watch. Molly Stark, married to General Stark for whom another watch model is named, was a Revolutionary War heroine. She is known for nursing her husband's troops through a smallpox outbreak and for opening their home for use as hospital during the war.

Randy Welch wrapped up the program with a couple of the most unusual items – a vintage motor and a minute repeater watch that strikes the minutes and hour with just the touch of a lever. Both of these items spurred quite a lot of discussion.



As with many of our programs, the discussion carried over through lunch, with everyone entering in. Who would have thought that the letter M could be the focus of so much discussion?

Houston Regional

August will be here soon, and that must mean that the All Texas Chapters Regional in Houston can't be far behind! This year's Regional is shaping up to be another blockbuster.

Last year's silent auction was such a popular part of the show that efforts are already underway to gather and restore another great selection of items. If last year's restoration work is any indicator, there will be some real prizes available at reasonable prices.

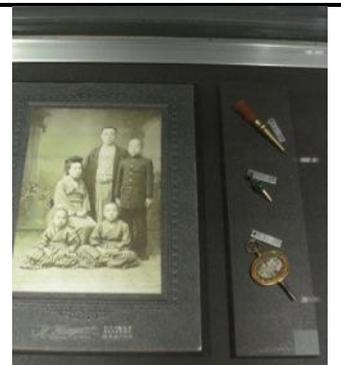
Known for their outstanding exhibits, this year's should be no exception. The focus is North American Regulators. Additionally, a wealth of information will be shared during the scheduled programs: Rockford Watch Company Watches by Darrah Artzner; Tips for the Novice Clock Collector by Tim Glanzman; and Howard Clocks. As if that isn't enough, everyone is invited to attend a program on Anniversary Clocks that is part of the Chapter 168 meeting on Saturday.

Make plans now to attend this great Regional right in our own backyard. Registration forms must be received by July 1st to qualify for early bird prices. Forms are available on the Chapter 139 website <http://sanjacinto139.homestead.com/Regional.html>

Spot a clock

This month, our Spot a clock takes a little different turn. In addition to seeing lots of clocks, Mary Ellen Bell spotted these pictures of watch keys and the people who used them. These displays provide a wonderful peek into life at the time, and it's surprising what we can learn about someone by the watch keys they carried – everything from their status to their profession to the sports they engaged in.

Thank you, Mary Ellen for providing these photographs!



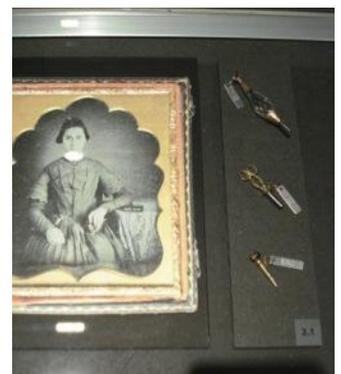
The unusual key at the top appears to show the day and date.



These keys are indicative of the status or profession of the owner.



There are two hunting theme keys – a gun and a dog – indicating sports of the time.



Three very feminine keys – two with stones and a scissor form key.