

The MAINSPRING

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

Contents

President's Message	1
Upcoming Events	2
Craft Contest Opportunities.....	3
Houston Regional.....	3
Spot a clock	4

Save the date

September 8

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

September 21

Antique pocket watch repair – 9-5
Windermere Clubhouse
16800 Gower, Pflugerville

September 28

Chapter 15 Program – 10 a.m.
Clocks of San Antonio
Jay Holloway
Pok-e-Jo's - 2121 Parmer, Austin

October 20

Painting/stenciling workday – 9 – 5
Holloways'

October 26

Chapter 15 program - 10 a.m.
Pok-e-Jo's - 2121 Parmer, Austin

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

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

Treasurer – Tom Tarpay
Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org

Secretary – Pat Holloway
Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

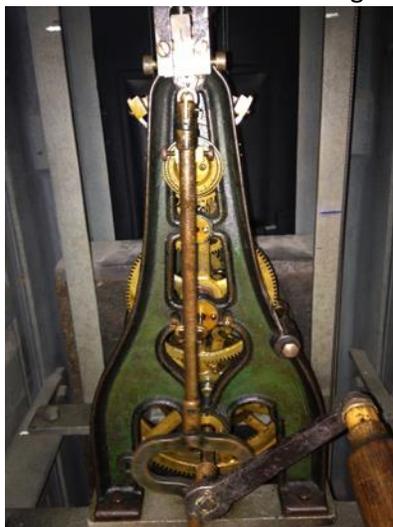
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Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President's Message

Dear Members,

Our early September seems to be sending us into the 100+ degree weather range again. We sure look forward to the "break" in temperatures as things cool off and morning temperatures make us look forward to early morning walks. What a difference a cloudy day makes, even this time of year. The shorter days are starting to creep up on us though, meaning that those early morning walks can shade us from the hot sun a bit. Time to take advantage of it and get some fresh air!

Last month, we had the opportunity to get over to Houston for the annual Chapter 139 Regional. Much like last year, we enjoyed the accommodations of the Marriott Houston Westchase. Our Chapter 139 brethren did a wonderful job of managing this Mart, and comments from many indicated that it was a good show for all. Again like last year we enjoyed perusing both the Mart and the very large Silent Auction, with a few programs sprinkled in between. Chapter 15 had a strong presence; we encountered many friends during our visit to the Regional including several who had tables and interesting horological items to sell.



While in Houston, it was also time to do our annual oiling of the Bank of America lobby street clock. The movement, while slightly worn, continues to do well, keeping accurate time and running strong.

Do you think about Now vs. Then?

Having been an NAWCC member longer than I can remember (somewhere around 40 years), I remember the "good old days" of the 70s and 80s when (it seemed) the NAWCC was more vibrant. In those days, I was still a teenager, and the memories are vivid. But somehow, our memories have a way of playing tricks on us. I remember the NAWCC being much stronger, or at least it seemed that membership in the 70s was larger than it is today. Many folks feel that NAWCC membership has declined from those good old days. It turns out this is not true at all. A few weeks ago I ran across a report from the NAWCC that reset my thinking about that. It turns out that the membership numbers, if one compares today's to the numbers back in the "heyday" of the late 70s or early 80s, are not that much different.

(Continued on page 2)

President’s Message (cont.)

One could, of course say that it hasn’t grown. Yes, we really need to find ways to attract new members, by all means. And yes, operating expenses have increased (what hasn’t over the years), but overall the organization has made good decisions and continues to maintain a reasonable balance sheet.

Let’s consider another example of Now vs. Then: the NAWCC publications. As I look at the *Clock & Watch Bulletin* (previously called the *Bulletin*) magazine, my offhand impression was that it seemed to be getting thinner. To test my memory, I pulled out some old Bulletins and compared them to today’s issues. At a glance, I noticed:

- Similar number of main articles—very interesting topics
- Many more feature articles today (17 vs. 10 in the two I compared)
- Many illustrations in color today vs. black in white 10+ years ago
- Print much clearer and more legible
- Same great quality production

The primary difference in thickness is that the Chapter Highlights now appear in the Mart, which is a more cost effective format.

Clearly we haven’t lost an edge in the Bulletin (now called Watch & Clock magazine) as these publications continue to go strong and improve—again reflecting very well on the NAWCC as an organization.

Another big, big improvement in the NAWCC in recent years is the availability of Library material. Remember when we needed to call up the Library and order a videotape or book? Now, a great deal of this material is available online to members. A few weeks ago Jay Holloway and I enjoyed a very good quality video (produced in the mid 80s by Dick Osgood) on Vienna Regulator restoration—right here on my home office computer!

Obviously everyone will have a memory or story to share on this topic. For example, do you perceive that Marts and Nationals are stronger now vs in the past? Or is it the other way around? I invite letters and thoughts on this topic; perhaps we can share some of these insights in upcoming Newsletters or monthly meetings; maybe we can dig deeper and get some data to test our memories!

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,811.86
Inc: None	0.00
Exp: Newsletter	-13.64
Website annual fee	-119.40
Closing Balance	\$7,678.82
Regional Account	\$3,863.60
Exp: No change	0.00
Closing Balance	\$3,863.60

Upcoming Events

As usual, Chapter 15 has a wide variety of upcoming activities, offering something for everyone. Make plans now to attend the ones that are of interest to you. Please let us know if there are particular topics you would like to see covered in a program or workshop. Similarly, if there are topics you’d like to share at a meeting, we’d like to hear about it. It doesn’t have to be a long presentation – a show and tell format works well for many topics. What better way to further the science of horology than to share your experiences?

September 8th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Reverse glass painting and stenciling at the Holloways’.

September 21st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Capitol Area Watchmaker and Clockmakers Guild and Chapter 15 jointly present an antique pocket watch repair class. This class will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse, 16800 Gower, Pflugerville, Texas. George Kiser will be leading the class. If you’ve ever wanted to take a pocket watch repair class, you won’t want to miss this opportunity. There will be plenty of assistants to help with the hands-on work. Cost is just \$25 for members. For details, contact Jay Holloway at 512-294-7371.

September 28th, 10 a.m.

Chapter 15 program at Pok-e-Jo’s, 2121 Parmer Lane, Austin. Jay Holloway will be sharing information on some very interesting and historic San Antonio clocks. Make plans now to attend.

October 20th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Reverse glass painting and stenciling at the Holloways’.

December 7th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wooden case restoration (details on page 3)

Craft Contest Opportunities

In last month's Mainspring, we included a message from Jay Holloway about the opportunity to enter a project in the Craft Contest to be held at the 2014 National Convention being held in Milwaukee, WI from June 19 to June 21.

Chapter 15 has a great history of entries in the Craft Contest, with both Craft Committee chairs/members and some fantastic entries. Beginning with the October newsletter, we'll be showcasing some of the Chapter 15 member entries through the years. Who knows, maybe some of their stories will inspire you to get started on a project of your own! Perhaps you picked up one of the great project clocks that were seen in the Mart room of the recent Houston Regional, or maybe you already had a clock in your shop that needs some TLC. If so, these may be prime candidates to be entered in one of the many categories. At a minimum, you'll have the sense of accomplishment of having rescued a piece of horological history.

To help you get started, Chapter 15 is hosting a one-day wooden case refinishing class (see details below). We anticipate that this class will be the first in a series that just might provide the skills or incentive you need to get that project finished!

Wooden case restoration class

Chapter 15 is offering a single day wood case restoration class that will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse located at 16800 Gower St., Pflugerville TX. The date for the class is Saturday, December 7, and it will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or later if needed to finish.

Ken Reindel and Jay Holloway will lead the class that will focus on the history of clock and furniture finishes, the advantages and disadvantages of each type of finish, as well as various methods of restoration along with their strengths. Key areas covered are finishes, matching and blending colors, along with important repairs needed in restoration.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a case to begin restoration. A second case will be allowed for evaluation only. For additional details, please contact Jay Holloway by phone at 512-294-7371 or by email at Jay@HollowayTrading.com. The class size is limited with first to sign up guaranteed a place. The investment for the training is \$40 with checks made out to NAWCC Chapter 15. They may be mailed to the

attention of Jay Holloway, 1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville TX 78660.

A list of supplies will be sent out to attendees. These supplies may be brought to class, or supplies may be purchased at the class for a nominal fee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Houston Regional

August 22-24, Chapter 15 departed from our usual monthly program and joined with the other Texas chapters to co-host the All Texas Chapters Regional in Houston. Although it was a steamy August on the outside, no one seemed to let this stop them from making the trip to enjoy this great Regional. As usual, Chapter 15 was very well represented, among both table holders and shoppers.



This year's Regional included four very informative programs covering everything from watches to clocks to tips for collectors. Additionally, everyone was invited to attend the Chapter 168, 400-Day Clock chapter, meeting where John Hubby presented another great program. All of the presentations were well attended, with a couple having near-capacity crowds. There was also a very nice exhibit of American Weight-Driven Regulators, along with the ever-popular silent auctions and It's For Free events in the Mart room.



And if that wasn't enough, there was the second annual Chapter 139-sponsored silent auction. This auction is made up of clocks in various states of disrepair that have been donated to the Chapter. During the year, members of the Chapter volunteer their time and skills to repair and restore the clocks, and then offer them in the silent auction. Anticipation ran high as the bidding came to a close. An often-repeated comment was "...And it works!!" Thanks to the San Jacinto Chapter members who dedicated their time and skills all year to get these clocks ready.

Our hats off to all the Texas Chapters' volunteers who worked to ensure that this year's Regional lived up to expectations!

Spot a clock



This month's Spot a clock moves east across the nation from Grapevine, Texas to upstate New York.

The clock on the left is the crowning touch atop the historic Rochester, New York building that served as the home of Sibley's Department Store. In fact their logo for many years was based on this beautiful clock tower and was found on their shopping bags, boxes and other items. A 1906 Seth



Thomas movement powers the clock. The clock tower on the right adorns the Canandaigua City Hall. It previously housed a rare Reeves and Company clock that has been restored and will be on display at various local sites this year as the city celebrates its centennial.

Thanks to Tom Smith for spotting and sharing photos of these great clocks! If you have pictures of clocks that you'd like to share with everyone, just email them to Pat Holloway along with a brief description. That's all there is to it!