



The MAIN SPRING

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

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Save these 2014 dates

May 17

Chapter 15 Program
10 a.m. -noon
Program - Dulen Lee
Pok-e-Jo’s - 2121 Parmer, Austin

June 17 - 21

NAWCC 2014 National
Milwaukee, WI

June 28

Chapter 15 Craft Contest
10 a.m. -noon
All members plan to bring and share
a project you’ve worked on
More info coming soon!
Pok-e-Jo’s - 2121 Parmer, Austin

July

Metallurgy in Horology

Coming in September

Cuckoo Clock Workshop
Joint class with CAWCG
Windermere Clubhouse, Pflugerville

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

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

Treasurer – Don White
Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org

Secretary – Pat Holloway
Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

Director of Programs – Gary
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Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President’s Message

Like last year, we are starting our Spring with cooler temperatures, pleasant mornings and evenings. Heavy rains are on the forecast for the next week or so. By the time this publishes we’ll know how that all goes. We could sure use the rain but as always prefer to avoid the turbulence and damage of heavy storms. I better be getting up on the roof today to repair some leaky flashings.

I wanted to give you an update on a special project we’ve been working on. This past year, we were approached by Randy Welch (a chapter 15 member) to look at the Williamson County courthouse clock in Georgetown. Randy lives a few blocks from downtown and was aware that the clock seldom had the correct time. He did some research and gave Jay Holloway the name to contact about the clock. After a few phone calls we reached the county maintenance manager, Gary Wilson, who told us that the building was renovated several years back and the county commissioners made the decision to convert the tower clock from pendulum to electric. Things went well for a few years but then the clock ceased to be reliable. It had a tendency to lose one to five minutes per day. Over weekends, it would lose even more at times. Mr. Wilson said several people had looked at the clock but were unable to correct the clock from losing time. We explained that Chapter 15 members were willing to take the clock on as a chapter project and we were confident we could find the issue and correct it.

Jay Holloway did the initial inspection. He couldn’t find any binding, no mechanical issues, but did some basic oiling. Gary Wilson said they had replaced the electric motor several times but nothing helped. I went with Jay last September and we adjusted the pinion depth on the electric motor. The county provided an old motor for us to check for accuracy while we were seeking a cure. For a while, the clock seemed to be doing better but still lost time. I suspected that the clock was randomly losing power for short periods, although no one could explain how. But nothing much else explains what we were seeing. So, at the very least, we needed to eliminate this as a variable before moving forward.

Our next step was Friday May 2, when we installed a frequency-precise AC power generator device (my Model 1930) and battery backup for that device. It’s been about a week now and the clock seems to be on time again. We’re hopeful that we have finally resolved this, but as usual we need to observe it longer and keep our eyes on things. We will continue to keep you posted on this Chapter 15 project. You can see pictures of the courthouse and clock in our Spot a Clock on page 4. *(continued on page 2)*

Welcome new member

Barry Allison

President’s message – continued

We had a pleasant Annual Meeting on April 26. As usual, we gave an update of the Chapter including announcement of several new members: Ray Allard, Steve Tibbitts, and Craig Jennings. We had a guest, Barry Allison stop in and visit. Barry had read about our meeting on our Chapter website, and I am happy to say that Barry has joined the NAWCC and our local Chapter. We wish to welcome him to Chapter 15!

As is customary at our annual meeting, we reviewed our Chapter business. Don White and I reviewed the Treasurer’s Report showing that the Chapter account remained healthy throughout the year. Like last year, we reviewed our progress towards our Charter. We noted continued performance to our goals. We still fell short on the topic of bringing new members in through local technical schools. We’ll continue to pursue that one; we believe it is both a viable and meaningful goal.

Item	Score	Update and Possible Next Step
Offer superior educational and social opportunities: Vibrant monthly programs, all day workshops, other events	4-5 (still 4-5)	See Program and Workshop Updates Programs continue to be strong! Excellent Educational programs
Continue to update and improve communication with members: The Mainspring, website	MS 5 WS 5	Website continues to grow
Provide recognition to deserving members	4	Pat Holloway Fellow!
Improve new membership, community awareness	3 (was 3)	Attendance at Meetings & Programs stronger
Work with other Chapters and CAWCG Guild to achieve Ch 15 Mission	5	Joint CAWCG Pocket Watch Repair Joint CAWCG Wood Clock Case Refinishing Strong Attendance at Houston and Mesquite Newsletter for Ch 139 Donation to National for Camera (\$200)
Work with local technical schools to generate awareness	1	More plans for 2014

We also wanted others to recognize that we are open to consider new officer candidates for the upcoming year. (The current officers are listed on the first page of the newsletter.) In 2015 we will be holding our elections again. So if you have an interest in being part of the group that helps keep our Chapter moving and growing, please let us know!

We reviewed another great year of workshops and monthly programs, and look forward to an even stronger 2014-2015 with some very exciting plans. For May, Dulen Lee will do a program on selecting the proper weight for weight-driven clocks, along with some tips on determining proper pendulum length. In June we will be having a mini craft contest within the Chapter. Be thinking about what you could enter and watch for additional information coming soon.

Member updates

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long-time Chapter 15 member Dick Dorer of Fredericksburg on April 19th. Many of us heard the program on Dick’s experiences while learning the watch trade many years ago, and his subsequent work for Elgin and as a watchmaker. And through the years, several in our Chapter worked with him to learn from his experience. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,644.27
Inc: Dues renewals	45.00
Exp: Newsletter	-10.00
Closing Balance	\$7,679.27
Regional Account	\$3,763.60
Exp: No change	
Closing Balance	\$3,763.60

Life IS Fair!

Eleven years after the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, San Francisco hosted the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. While the 1904 Expo offered many places around the grounds to purchase an Ingersoll souvenir watch, watches were sold from a single site at the PPIE – and what an amazing site it was!

1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco

By the time the Panama-Pacific International Exposition rolled around, things were changing – for the world on the brink of war and economic uncertainty, and for watch manufacturers who were facing economic challenges while making changes in their lines to add wristwatches that were rapidly gaining acceptance. Despite these issues and reduced turnout at the Exposition, one of the most successful and recognizable features in the Joy Zone, or midway area, was the Souvenir Watch Palace.

Playing on the country's rising patriotism, the Palace was “watched” over by a gigantic Uncle Sam leaning over the top of the building with four additional gents lifting giant pocket watches while supporting the façade. If you look carefully at the building, immediately under the flag on the right, you will see “New Haven Clock Company 1915.” And just below that is a sign running the height of the column that says “Official Souvenir Watch \$1 Made in America by New Haven Clock Company.” The banners on the float in front of the Palace echo the patriotic theme announcing that they are American Watches.



While there are many examples of Ingersoll watches and stories of their involvement at other expos, it's obvious that New Haven moved into the lead at the PPIE. And while the watches were still \$1, unlike Ingersoll's “Watch that made the dollar famous,” over the door are the words “AMERICAS GREATEST DOLLAR WATCH.” Apparently people considered a \$1 watch to be a good and useful souvenir, and while many of the other entertainment venues lost money or were forced to close early, business was reportedly brisk at the Watch Palace.

Like the Ingersoll Exposition watches, these could be ordered, however, these may have been ordered from the Panama Watch Co. rather than directly from New Haven. Although the ad states “Official California Souvenir Watch”, without additional information, it's difficult to tell whether it is for a New Haven watch. While the watches were sold at the Exposition, the ad offers them for \$2 for boy's size and \$2.50 for girls. As an added incentive, any boy or girl who sold six of their watches received one of the souvenir watches free.

OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA SOUVENIR WATCH
PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

Here is an Opportunity for Boys and Girls or Parents to secure the Beautiful Official Souvenir commemorating the greatest event in American History.

These watches are absolutely guaranteed—the case is handsomely embossed with the official seal of the Exposition showing the opening of the Panama Canal, the greatest physical achievement the world has ever known. To own one of these fine watches should be the ambition of every American and parents should see that their child gets one. The number contracted for is limited, hence as the years roll on these souvenir watches will become more and more valuable. The watch or fob will be sent prepaid to any address on receipt of price.

Boy's Size, \$2.00 With Beautiful Fob, \$2.50
Girl's Size, \$2.50 With Beautiful Fob, \$3.00
In Canada or Foreign Countries, 50c extra.

The Fob is a very handsome souvenir and a limited number of them will be sold at 50c each—send for one. Money returned if watch or fob is not satisfactory. Send postal or express money order today.

Any Boy or Girl who will act as our agent and sell six watches, either size, will receive one of these beautiful Souvenir Watches Free.

PANAMA WATCH CO.
200 Hearst Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.

LADIES SIZE



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Spot a clock

This month's Spot a clock allows us an up close look at the Williamson County Courthouse E. Howard tower clock in Georgetown that is now back to health thanks to Chapter 15!!!

