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Save these 2014 dates

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
Pok-e-Jo’s - 2121 Parmer, Austin

July 13 and Aug 10

Painting, Stenciling workdays
Holloways’ in Pflugerville

July 26

Chapter 15 Program
10 a.m. -noon
Program – Ken Reindel
Horological Metallurgy
Pok-e-Jo’s - 2121 Parmer, Austin

Coming in September

Cuckoo Clock Workshop
Quartz Watch Workshop

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
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Vice-President – Jay Holloway
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President’s Message

It sure was nice to see that rainfall last week! Lawns and landscapes everywhere are popping with beautiful colors and flourishing growth! It sure beats years past where by this time everything seemed to have a dull yellow-brown. Hopefully that weather pattern will repeat and we will see much more to come! That said, we can’t predict Mother Nature, especially here in Central Texas. But we can be hopeful.

For our last meeting, I was unfortunately unable to be present because of “day job” priorities. But I’ve heard great things about Dulen Lee’s presentation – that it was both informative and enjoyable.

Having been in the clock restoration business for close to 5 decades now, I thought I had heard everything. But this month’s story tops them all. I present it to you for your amusement or perhaps analysis, not meant to be critical in any way. But it’s hard not to be amazed!

We all enjoy our clocks (and watches). With some, at times it borders on “we love our clocks.” Sometimes we spend way too much time with them, and in that case sometimes perhaps we become tired of them, or from them. So perhaps in that case they are a source of fatigue. But have you ever taken ill because of your clock?

Most of you may know that I have a fairly substantial backlog on clock restorations, and in fact on my website I state that the backlog is about 1 year. Truth be told, it isn’t typically anywhere near that long, but for some projects it could be. So, we take a conservative approach so we don’t set customer expectations incorrectly.

Well, a customer who sent their clock to me in late March of this year recently reported to me that her husband had missed his clock so terribly. In fact, he was in such despair over the movement being missing from the case that his health was failing. In fact, I needed to get right on it so that he would not slip further into the depths of this nonspecific illness.

Of course, being the sensitive chap that I am, I became quite concerned. Could this be true? And if it were, could I remedy this customer’s illness through my horological magic? Would that qualify me as a doctor, or as a magician? Or perhaps it would qualify me as some sort of psychologist? Perhaps I was underpaid for my expertise, or my service expenses could be claimed under their medical plan and managed by an HMO? The questions that ran through my mind were endless.

But the most important question was, what should I do? If I ignored this request, could I be held liable for the consequences of this illness (some sort of malpractice)? If I responded to it, then could anyone move his or her clock up in my queue by developing a cough or allergy? To be honest, I was quite stumped. To move this clock up would mean to push at least 3 other customers behind schedule. What if one of these 3 resulted

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President’s message – continued

in a customer illness? This was a real dilemma. Worse yet, I couldn’t simply prescribe medication for this one or send the customer for tests.

There was also a concern about how quickly this illness might advance. Was I already too late? Could I spend a few weeks getting through this movement (typical), or did it need to be rushed to the ER?

In the end, I grabbed my iPhone and started into the movement. At each key step, I chronicled the progress with a few pictures whisked off to the customer on the spot. The customer was fascinated with the step-by-step progress in pictures, so much so that his wife described him as “elated.”

Unfortunately, the movement took much longer than I thought. It turned out that the customer had spent a good number of years “tinkering” with the thing and in the process had done some pretty serious “good” to the movement, which took an intense 3 days to undo. But now, the customer is thrilled (or is it cured?). He enjoyed watching the movement work progress and delighted at the final photo showing the fully cleaned, restored, running movement on the wall. Off it went yesterday morning. By the time this Newsletter posts, he will have his movement back in its case along with a miraculous recovery.

But now, they get to pay the ER service fees. Sure hope that doesn’t create a relapse.

As for me, I’ll probably spend this week working late nights to catch up for lost time. But I’ve learned a valuable lesson. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. I guess I’ll be changing that backlog to 2 years now.

Upcoming Programs. I encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings held the last week of the month at Poke-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. This month we’ll be hosting a Craft Contest. Bring the best example of your passion and craft, and be prepared to present it briefly. It should be a lot of fun!

Are you planning on going to the National in June?

In July, we’ll be talking about metallurgy in horology. This one will be fun. There are numerous

things about working with horological metals that you will find interesting and helpful. In September, we’ll be back after our August break (for the Houston Regional) and there will be workshops on Cuckoo Clocks and Quartz Watches.

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,679.27
Inc: New membership	15.00
Exp: Newsletter and website	<u>-128.31</u>
Closing Balance	\$7,565.96
Regional Account	\$3,763.60
Exp: No change	
Closing Balance	\$3,763.60

Upcoming programs

As Ken mentioned, Chapter 15 has a very busy summer planned. We hope you will be able to join us for some of the activities. In addition to the aforementioned programs, there will also be Painting and Stenciling workdays on July 13 and August 10. If you have some painting or stenciling restoration work to do on a clock tablet, columns or splats, this might be the incentive you’ve been looking for.

These sessions are very informal and anyone is welcome, regardless of skill level. Please let Pat Holloway know if you are interested in attending to ensure any materials you might need are available. You don’t need to provide any supplies, however you may bring your clock or glass if there is a specific restoration you’d like to tackle. You can reach Pat by at 512-252-3881 or patricia.w.holloway@gmail.com

Chapter 15 Craft Contest

What will you be bringing to our June Chapter 15 Craft Contest? There are numerous options, ranging from restoration of clock/watch cases or parts to replicated or experimental clocks/watches to horological novelty items. You may enter more than one category and an item may be entered in more than one category if it applies. For instance, if you restored a clock case, and in the process created or replicated ornamentation and repainted the dial, you could enter the case in three different categories.

There is a lot of talent in Chapter 15, and this will be a great opportunity to share that talent! Don’t hesitate to contact any of the Chapter officers with questions or suggestions.

Life IS Fair!

In 1933, Chicago one again hosted a World's Fair. While the 1893 Exposition celebrated Columbus' discovery of America, the 1933 Fair theme was *A Century of Progress* to celebrate Chicago's 100th anniversary as well as progress. The motto was "Science Finds, Industry Applies, Man Conforms" and, where possible, the exhibits demonstrated the process of making something rather than the finished product. Assembly lines producing goods for purchase or shipment were not uncommon.

1933 A Century of Progress International Exposition

From an idea formulated and approved in the glory days of the roaring twenties, through the Great Depression, the 1933 Century of Progress International Exposition finally came to fruition. Attendance was so good that the fair reopened in 1934 with a slightly different color scheme and a few changes in exhibits. In total about 48 million people attended the fair, and there appears not to have been a shortage of souvenir watches available.

Although R.H. Ingersoll & Bro. had been acquired by Waterbury, they did produce a souvenir watch with a plain dial and embossed back. There was also a Westclox watch with a decorative dial that reflected the fair's modernistic colors.



Ingersoll souvenir watch – Junior model with embossed back



Westclox souvenir watch with decorative dial and smooth back

A log-built replica of Fort Dearborn was reconstructed on the Midway. This Fort, originally constructed in 1803, was a popular attraction and unmarked Fort Dearborn souvenir watches can be found. The Fort represented the birth of Chicago and can be seen in the foreground of some of the 1933 Worlds' Fair imagery, with the soaring modern skyline of Chicago in the background.



Fort Dearborn watch with Fort Dearborn in the foreground against the Chicago skyline

Believe it or not, these three watches were not the horological stars of the fair! Be sure to check next month to hear "the rest of the story."

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15
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Spot a clock

If you're looking for a day trip this summer, why not "spot a tower clock" in some of the historical Texas courthouses? There are some spectacular courthouses in easy driving distance, and many of the cities have interesting shops and restaurants to help you pass the time. Three of these beautifully restored courthouses can be found to the southeast of Austin in Goliad, Victoria and Cuero. Or if you'd like to go in a little different direction, you could head north of Austin to Georgetown, Belton and Cameron. Head out and enjoy the sights!



Goliad



Victoria



Cuero



Georgetown



Belton



Cameron