

Contents

President’s Message..... 1
 October program..... 2
 Life /S Fair! 3
 Spot a clock 4

Save these 2014 dates

October 25

Chapter 15 Program
 10 a.m. – noon
 Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin
 Program – Don Bugh
 Street clocks of Milwaukee

October 26

Painting, Stenciling workday
 9 a.m. at the Holloways’
 1105 Lafayette Lane
 Pflugerville

November

Meeting date to be determined

December

No planned meeting

January 24

Program at Pok-e-Jo’s, Austin

Current Board Members

President – Ken Reindel
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

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President’s Message

Dear Members,

At last it is starting to cool down a bit! Although this week it looks like we will have a bit of a resurgence of summer, the cooler temperatures are here and that will be the trend. So refreshing to go for an early morning walk or run right now! Yet another tropical storm threatens the southwestern US and Mexican coasts this week. This should bring moisture to our area and hopefully more than just increased humidity! We may just get a little rain out of it.

I want to start out by thanking all of those who came out for our Metallurgy in Horology presentation in September. The “class participation” was great, and there was a lot of good interaction and suggestions. Several good ideas came out of it. In that light, I want to add a few thoughts and perspectives, and follow up on some questions that came up.

Craig had suggested 12L14 from Online Metals as a great free-turning alloy for horological applications. I checked into it and indeed, it is available, low cost and very interesting. It contains about 0.15-0.35% lead, so indeed that will have a positive affect on the machinability. It would likely be a free-turning cold rolled steel alternative. I will probably give it a try, especially for machining larger parts such as pillars and similar. I can think of several interesting applications for it in my shop right away. The only down side I can see is that it is not available (at least from Online Metals) in very many sizes. I am sure someone has more selection if we wanted to pursue it.

This weekend I turned up an arbor using Online Metal’s 0-1 tool steel rod (their version of Silver Steel) that is available in many sizes. As with many steels, it was a bit slow going but turned out great. The pivots burnished up bright and smooth. The hardenable alloys do require a little more work to get the right surface finish after rough machining. The advantage they have is that they are much harder, even in their as-received annealed state, and can be oil hardened beyond that. As usual with metallurgy, it’s a matter of what you want to do with it.

Welcome new member!
Don Bond

President’s message – continued

During the presentation, Michael asked how to avoid warpage during hardening by quenching in oil. One way is to wrap in binding wire as was suggested during the class. Another approach is to use A-2 alloy, available in the same broad array of sizes as 0-1. “Air hardenable” means you can heat it up and let it air cool, no need to quench (which sometimes causes warpage). That might do the job! But, be careful. If during machining or drilling you overheat the work piece, you might suddenly find yourself dealing with a part that can no longer be machined. As long as you use oil to keep the part cool during machining, it should be fine in the smaller dimensions we typically use in horology.

While discussing spring steels, someone asked about custom mainsprings. Here is the info:

Time Wise
 Contact: Larry Wise
 5921 Moff Rd.
 Atwater, OH 44201-9138
 330-947-0047

I have always found Larry very helpful, responsive and courteous.

As with any machining, you should always remember to avoid ingestion of any particles or dust

from machining and grinding. It is important to always wash your hands after handling or machining these materials, and especially 360 brass rod which has a lot more lead content than 12L16. These lead-based alloys contain very little lead overall, but it is there nonetheless and can be harmful if you ingest it. That said, copper isn’t at all safe to ingest either! So take appropriate safeguards when working with these materials.

Pat has some very important information on our upcoming programs. We’re rapidly approaching the holidays, so it’s a good time to pay attention to when we will and won’t have meetings. Please see the detailed schedule on the first page of this Newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,527.48
Inc: Dues	65.00
Exp: Newsletter printing	-16.01
Closing Balance	\$7,556.47
Regional Account	\$3,663.60
Exp: None	0.00
Closing Balance	\$3,663.60

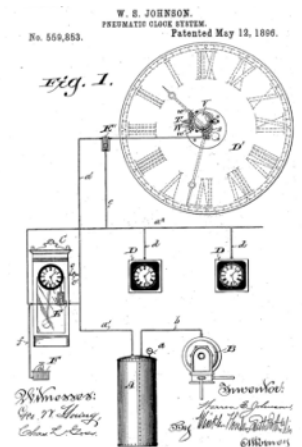
October program

The Street Clocks of Milwaukee



Don Bugh will speak on the street clocks of Milwaukee at this month’s meeting. The presentation will primarily focus on Milwaukee’s street clocks including the outrageous destruction of the city’s street clocks in 1907. Mayor Sherman Becker, better known as the “Boy Mayor” found street clocks particularly bothersome and “an obstruction to sidewalk traffic”. Becker issued a city ordinance that the clocks were to be removed. When the ordinance was ignored, he and a group of city fireman pulled the clocks down one by one.

The presentation will also cover a few of Milwaukee’s tower clocks including Warren Johnson’s Pneumatic Tower Clock installed in the Milwaukee City Hall in 1896. Johnson was the founder of Johnson Controls, still headquartered in Milwaukee.



Make plans now to join us at 10:00 a.m. on October 25th at Pok-e-Jo’s on Parmer to hear Don’s program.

Life IS Fair!

The phrase Life IS Fair! was true of the 1939 New York World's Fair, but in a slightly different manner than the previous fairs. Following closely on the heels of the 1933/'34 *Century of Progress World's Fair* in Chicago, the theme of New York's 1939/'40 Fair carried attendees from a celebration of 100 years of progress, forward into *The World of Tomorrow*.

Despite the futuristic theme, there were several things that were reminiscent of earlier fairs. Mickey Mouse timepieces that had been so successful a few years earlier continued to gain popularity. The Mickey watch had become such a part of American culture that one was included in a time capsule that was buried at the 1939 World's Fair. The capsule, to be opened 5000 years later, contains items that were selected based on how well they chronicled 20th century life. Of all the watches available at that time, the fact that an inexpensive Mickey Mouse watch was chosen speaks volumes!

Similarly, Admiral Byrd continued to make news with his South Pole explorations. Instead of his ship, the 1939 Fair's Amusement Zone featured Adm. Byrd's Penguin Island, complete with penguins. For one thin dime, visitors could be entertained by the penguins, see Admiral Byrd's personal team of Huskies that that had been born in Antarctica, and view the original equipment from his 1934 exploration.

Like the 1904 St Louis World's Fair, one watch company provided time for the fair. However, instead of Ingersoll, Bulova's name recognition surely profited from their clocks that were strategically located throughout the fairgrounds. These clocks could be found above the Corona Gate entrance and the transportation center, as well as other conspicuous locations.

Elgin National Watch Co. had an impressive presence at the fair. This futuristic looking building was located just inside one of the entrances and adjacent to a busy bridge that led to the amusement section of the fair. The verbiage on the back of the card says that the building featured a fully functional astronomical observatory as well as a watch museum and exhibit of technical achievements in watchmaking. Helps explain the building, doesn't it? Visitors were able to learn how time was taken from the stars at the Elgin observatory and used to time every Elgin watch.

The front of the brochure below features the iconic symbols of the 1939 Fair – the trylon and perisphere – along with an explanation of Elgin's timing practices utilizing the observatory. The brochure opens to show examples from the museum located in the building, and then unfolds to picture many of the Elgin watch styles available at the time.



And, not to be "outshone" by the ability to learn time from the stars, pictured below is a souvenir watch from the Fair. This one utilizes the sun and a compass rather than the stars and an observatory to tell time.



Although the price is not obvious from the tag on the box, certainly it was less than a watch timed in the observatory!



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Spot a clock –

Don White recently spotted this clock in Castletown, Isle of Man. Don relates that construction began on this castle in the mid-900s and was added on to until this version that goes back to around 1200. According to a posted sign, local tradition is that the clock was given by Queen Elizabeth I in 1597. However, reading further it says, “...the main escapement and pendulum mechanisms are approximately one hundred years later.” Regardless, it’s definitely an old clock!



Thanks, Don, for sharing this great “spot”!

