



The MAINSPRING

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

Contents

President’s Message	1
Chapter membership renewal ...	2
NAWCC elections	3
Upcoming Events	3
Spot a clock	4

Save these 2015 dates

January 24

“Why do we hate New Haven movements?”

10 a.m. – noon

Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

January 25 – NAWCC Webinar

“The War Alarm” – Al Dodson

February 15 – NAWCC Webinar

“The Remarkable Clocks of Andrew V. Strait of Sidney NY”

February 21

CAWCG and Chapter 15

Cuckoo clock workshop

Windermere Clubhouse, Pflugerville

February 28

10 a.m. – noon

Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

March 6-7

Lone Star Regional

Mesquite TX

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

Sertich

Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President’s Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the New Year 2015. Yesterday we were down around 21 degrees here in the Central Texas area. The good news is that we are seeing some precipitation as rain—and so far, no freezing rain on the roads. No guarantees that it is going to stay that way though; it is, after all, Winter in Central Texas!

After a Holiday break, it is time to resume our monthly meetings and programs. We have been working on our list of programs for this year. During the course of 2014, we were able to provide a number of technical programs as well as an interesting blend of historical presentations. For example, we were thankful to Don Bugh for his Milwaukee Street Clock presentation. You recall Don also presented some pictures on other interesting street and tower clock acquisitions. For this year, we hope to continue this balance where we do a few more technical sessions, as well as historic and non-technical. With that in mind, our first presentation for the year is going to be an open discussion on New Haven clocks. Jay and I will host that one.

Our first Program for the New Year promises to provide some polite perspectives on the New Haven topic. I walk through the Marts or browse Ebay and I’m shocked by the generally low prices on New Haven clocks—not always, but more deals seem to be available on this model compared to others such as Seth Thomas. Why is this? All indications are that New Haven clocks are quality-built, some very ornately decorated, and eminently restorable. But then you hear that some folks won’t even work on them. Let’s dive into that topic later this month.

As previously mentioned in this letter, one topic that comes up periodically is rare street and tower clock acquisitions by the NAWCC. Early in December, the National Watch and Clock Museum received a donation of an E. Howard #3 tower clock from Trinity Wall Street Church, located at the head of Wall Street. As such, it has been part of our Nation’s history since 1697. The clock system installed in 1905 was the timekeeper for Wall Street, and was part of the New Years Celebration for many decades. We want to keep an eye on developments around this historic timepiece. It seems that it would be worthy of donation to help in the restoration and preservation of this important timepiece. Right now, we don’t know much about it, but Steve Humphrey has promised to keep us posted.

Meanwhile, Frank Del Greco had been offering a challenge to promote raising funds towards restoring the very rare Ansonia street clock purchased by the NAWCC earlier in 2014. I found this very interesting
(Continued on page 2)

President's message – continued

chronicle of the clock's history since being acquired by the NAWCC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AnsoniaStreetClock>

Its long history had its starts in 1884 at Quincy, Illinois where it was purchased by Heinz and Rosenthal Jewelry. Over the years, it found its way through Memphis, Missouri, Los Alamos, and then Tampa, Florida when it was acquired by the NAWCC. In mid December our Chapter 15 Board felt it very worthwhile to contribute \$100 to the cause of restoring this truly wonderful, rare clock—especially since Frank provided the matching funds for the donation, effectively doubling our contribution.

I received a nice letter from Frank recently that I will summarize here:

Dear Chapter 15:

“Thank you for your very generous gift of \$100 to the Ansonia Street Clock Restoration. Project. Really appreciate it! The clock will look great in the center of the museum's Rotunda when complete. I've sent in my matching gift. Thanks again!”

—signed, Frank Del Greco

It was great to see that the matching gift was forwarded, and that Chapter 15 will be part of this great restoration. It might be worth a Chapter 15 Program summarizing progress at some later date, once more is known and has been done. (Ed. note: In the fall, Don Bugh and Jim Coulson will be presenting a webinar on this wonderful clock and the ongoing restoration project. Watch for additional information the presentation date is finalized.)

I also want to point out that the NAWCC elections are coming up and we are being encouraged to vote early. This year, our own Jay Holloway is running for one of the Director positions! Everyone knows of Jay's commitment to the NAWCC, his ability to focus and organize to get things done, and his strong sense of integrity. Imagine how wonderful it would be to have one of our own representing us at the Director level within the NAWCC.

Speaking of which, Jay pointed out that it is time to once again start thinking about the annual NAWCC Crafts Competition. We have numerous crafts-persons in our Chapter, and wouldn't it be tremendous if Chapter 15 had another great showing this year, like we did last year? So maybe it's time to make progress on that winter project you've been

thinking about, to have it ready in time for the Crafts Competition in June!

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,805.70
Inc: Dues	180.00
Exp: Donation to Ansonia Street Clock	-100.00
Closing Balance	\$7,885.70
Regional Account	\$3,663.60
Exp: None	0.00
Closing Balance	\$3,663.60

Chapter membership renewal

It's that time again – time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2015. Payment can be made by check. If you have an email address, please consider receiving your newsletter electronically.

Chapter membership	
If you've not yet renewed for 2015, please take a few minutes to complete and return the form below.	
Chapter 15 Membership Application New Application / Renewal (circle one) Membership Dues are \$15 <i>You must be a current, paid NAWCC member to join a Chapter. You may be a member of more than one Chapter.</i>	
<u>Please Print or Type</u>	
NAME:	_____
SPOUSE'S NAME:	_____
STREET:	_____
CITY:	_____
STATE/COUNTRY:	_____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL:	_____
PHONE:	_____
NAWCC Member #	_____
HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS:	_____
<u>Please send my Chapter newsletter by email.</u>	
Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC Enclose this application and check and send to: Pat Holloway 1105 Lafayette Lane Pflugerville, TX 78660	

NAWCC elections

NAWCC elections will be held early in the new year. Jay Holloway is one of eight individuals running for the three elected director openings. Please take a few minutes to become familiar with all of the candidates as well as the nominees to the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC). The candidate's biographies are in the January issue of the Bulletin and can also be found on the NAWCC website: <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/our-association/2015-bod-elections#callfornoms>

We will also be electing Chapter 15 officers at our April meeting. Please contact any of the current officers listed on page one if you are interested in running for one of the positions.

Upcoming Events

January

24th - Chapter 15 Program

As Ken mentioned, January's program on New Haven clocks will require some audience input – and you still have a couple of weeks to prepare to share your knowledge, frustrations, tips and tricks with respect to New Haven clocks. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the New Haven Clock Company and their products. Please plan to bring a New Haven clock or movement for everyone to view and learn more about the clocks' designs.

25th – NAWCC webinar

The NAWCC Program Committee and the NAWCC Director of Education, Katie Knaub, have a wonderful slate of webinars lined up for 2015. The webinars can be attended live on your home computer. To view the previous webinars or sign up for the upcoming presentations, select Education from the NAWCC home page, and select the Webinars icon on the right.

<http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars> . If you have questions or suggestions for future presentations, please don't hesitate to contact Pat Holloway, who is National Program Committee chair (512-252-3881).

The first program of the year will be "The War Alarm" presented by Al Dodson. A couple of years ago, many of you attended Ken's Chapter 15 program on Westclox during which he mentioned the alarm clock situation created during the War. Al's program will take a more in-depth look at this issue across the horological industry. Following is the summary of this program.

Horology played an important role in World War Two. The Hamilton Watch Co. is well remembered for the spectacular achievement of mass-producing the Marine Chronometer and the many other timepieces they made for all branches of military. Other watch and clock companies also produced a wide variety of timepieces for the war effort. One product, the War Alarm, was produced for the civilian population in response to a critical need of this cheap and mundane timepiece. This webinar, presented by Al Dodson, will discuss the War Alarm and present photos, vintage advertisements, and other documents to illustrate this need and how the government and manufacturers responded.

February

15th – NAWCC webinar

The February webinar program will be "The Remarkable Clocks of Andrew V. Strait of Sidney NY" presented by Russ Oechsle, co-author of "An Empire In Time - Clocks and Clock Makers of Upstate, New York." Following is the program summary.

While the name Andrew V. Strait might not be recognizable to many advertising clock collectors and aficionados, his clocks, generally referred to as "Sidney Advertising Clocks" surely are. Strait's story is one of real genius, wherein his skills as a clock maker merged with his unique ideas on profiting through the medium of advertising to create a new segment in American horology. This presentation, based almost entirely on primary sources, will provide the history of Strait and his various advertising clock models, as well as lesser-known inventions, including what he called the "first electric alarm clock."

21st – workshop with CAWCG

The Cuckoo Clock class is the first one-day repair workshop of the year. This workshop will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse, 16800 Gower Street, Pflugerville, will provide an opportunity to learn more about cuckoos, including troubleshooting and basic repairs. If you don't have a cuckoo in need of repair, but would like to attend the workshop, please contact Jay Holloway (512-294-7371), so one can be provided for you during the class. This class is a great follow on to Jay's 2014 program on cuckoo clocks.

28th – Chapter 15 Program

March

5th – 7th – Lone Star Regional in Mesquite

Don't miss out!! If you haven't already made plans and hotel reservations, you will want to do so soon!

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville TX 78660

Spot a clock

As we begin 2015, our Spot a clock features a quick look back at some of the clocks spotted at 2014 Chapter events.

