



The MAINSPRING

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

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Save these 2015 dates

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

“400 Day clock twists and turns”
10 a.m. – noon
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

March 6-7

Lone Star Regional
Mesquite TX

March – NAWCC Webinar

“The Establishment of Time Zones in the U.S.”

March 28

Chapter 15 program
10 a.m. – noon
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

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Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org

Secretary – Pat Holloway
Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

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Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President’s Message

Dear Members,

Well, at one time I thought that cold weather was somewhat unusual in Austin, TX. But as I look back at the last few years, I am more and more convinced that it is the norm! I am never one to complain about it. Don’t forget: we’ll be wishing for cooler weather come July and August!

Compared to the blizzard conditions faced by several Midwest and northeastern cities this last month, we have had it easy. And the outlook is for generally warmer weather once we pass the start of February. That said, I remember snow on Valentine’s Day and 30’s temperatures on Easter not too many years ago, so anything is possible.

The year is starting out well in Chapter 15. Last week we held our first Program of the year, a focus on New Haven clocks. We briefly studied the history and examined why folks seem to avoid these clocks—and indeed, many do not like to service them. We concluded that most of the New Haven movements we run into aren’t so bad and in fact are designed for relatively easy servicing. It’s the 380-style round Chime movement that universally seems to give folks the most difficulty. It appears to be the multiple plates, levels and small pivots that cause problems.

What a coincidence that when I returned from the meeting last Saturday I found that Fedex had delivered a customer’s New Haven electric chime movement for repair. This unit is a modification of the 380-style round Chime movement! I couldn’t believe my eyes. Since receiving it on Saturday, cleaning, pivot polishing and bushings have been completed. The wear was very excessive. The abuse by previous hands (hole closing punches and parts sawn off) had likewise taken a toll. It has been quite a project, requiring the mainspring shaft replaced (a new one made) as well as a new fiber wheel (again, a new one needed to be made)—and we’re not done yet. Hopefully I’ll be able to provide a brief update on my findings and recommendations for the next meeting.

We are committed to continuing with some great programs for this year. We have many candidate program ideas in motion but the schedule for the year isn’t completely set yet. So, if you have some ideas or want to present, please do share. Education and training is a key component of Chapter 15’s Mission Statement and there are many folks here in the Chapter with knowledge to share. *(Continued on page 2)*

Welcome new members!
Dave Freeman - Lago Vista
Jason Soule - Lampasas

President's message – continued

Our next NAWCC Chapter 124 Lone Star Regional in Mesquite is rapidly approaching. Again this year, we will co-host this event along with Chapter 139 and Chapter 80. This event will run from Thursday March 5 (Workshop) through March 7. The theme this year will be "Viennese Clocks." A special workshop on Thursday March 5 will focus on Hairsprings. Unloading will take place on Thursday afternoon. The Mart opens on Friday March 8 at 8am (NAWCC members only until 1pm). Saturday the Mart opens at 8am and will be open to the public all day. Also on Saturday the International 400 Day Clock Chapter 168 will hold a meeting hosted by John Hubby. It is considered the biggest Mart in Texas with over 300 tables and 30,000 sq. ft. of Mart area. The exhibits are always outstanding. Additional details can be found on the Chapter 124 website at <http://www.chapter124.org/regional/RegPag2015.html> and for registration questions or problems, contact Gene Meysenburg at gm1000@prodigy.net or 214-328-1984. Again, it appears that this is going to be another great Texas Regional. Many of us will be there...come on and join us!

Welcome to our new members! As you saw on page one, we are pleased to announce that we have several new members.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account	\$7,885.70
Inc: Dues	255.00
Exp: Ch. Insurance (\$500); newsletter	<u>-508.33</u>
Closing Balance	\$7,632.37
Regional Account	\$3,663.60
Exp: Lone Star Regional donation	<u>100.00</u>
Closing Balance	\$3,563.60

NAWCC elections

Please remember that it is once again time for NAWCC elections. If you did not vote electronically, you will receive a copy of the ballot by mail. Please take a few minutes to become familiar with all of the candidates for the Board and the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), then complete and return your ballot. There are many qualified candidates, for all positions, including Jay Holloway from Chapter 15. Candidates' biographies are in the January *Bulletin* and can also be found on the NAWCC website.

Upcoming Events

February

8th – Horological Art workday

Previously referred to as "Painting and Stenciling" workdays, these sessions have evolved into an opportunity to brainstorm with other attendees over possible techniques for restoration of dials, tablets, columns or statues, and/or work on existing projects. Please note that at this time, general case restoration and statue repairs continue to be outside of the scope of these sessions. Much of the time continues to be dedicated to painting and stenciling, and this would be a great way to complete a project to enter in the 2015 National Craft Contest! If you have projects that you'd like to discuss or work on, please contact Pat Holloway at 512-252-3881 or by email at patricia.w.holloway@gmail.com.

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 – Cuckoo clock workshop with CAWCG

There are still a couple of openings for the Cuckoo Clock class one-day repair workshop. Please contact Jay Holloway (512-294-7371) as soon as possible if you have not already registered. This workshop will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse, 16800 Gower Street, Pflugerville. It provides an opportunity to learn more about cuckoos, including troubleshooting and basic repairs. Please note that this session is intended to address "simple" cuckoo clocks with bellows and cuckoos. If there is enough interest, a second session that covers music boxes and complicated movements will be explored.

If you would like to attend, but don't have a cuckoo in need of repair, please mention this to Jay 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

This month's program will focus on "400-Day Clock Twists and Turns." In addition to a brief history of torsion pendulum clocks, we'll take a look at some of the inherent challenges frequently encountered while maintaining and repairing these beautiful clocks.

As Ken mentioned in this month's President's Message, there will be a Chapter 168 (International 400-day Clock Chapter) meeting at the Lone Star Regional in March. This meeting and program are open to everyone, and are an excellent opportunity to learn more about 400-day clocks. If you'd like to learn more about this Chapter, you can visit their website at <http://community.nawcc.org/Chapter168/home>

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! As Ken mentioned, Chapter 15 is one of the co-hosts for this Regional. It's a great time to reconnect with everyone, or find a new treasure, following the holiday break.

There are some great programs being offered this year, so be sure to check the schedule and take time out of the Mart room to attend these sessions. Just in case you need a little extra incentive, there are great door prizes at each of the programs – and you get to sit down for a bit to give your feet a rest! For additional information, see Ken's message or visit the Chapter 124 website.

Date TBD – NAWCC webinar

The Program for the March webinar is "The Establishment of Time Zones in the U.S." More information is forthcoming, and will be communicated as quickly as possible so you don't miss out on this interesting topic.

28th – Chapter 15 Program

The topic for our March program is being finalized at this time.

Reminders of 2015 National events

The **2015 National Convention** is scheduled for June 17th-20th. In addition to the National,

Chattanooga offers a wonderful variety of sight seeing and entertainment opportunities. The schedule, hotel information and registration forms can be found at https://net.nawcc.org/imis_15/NAWCC/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=MT15NAT.

The **2015 Ward Francillon Time Symposium** will be October 22nd-24th in Houston. This year's focus is "Mechanical Music & Marvels" and covers the history and development of clockwork operated devices. As a bonus, the Symposium includes tours of two large private collections. Many of us are very familiar with the host hotel – the Houston Marriot Westchase, home of the All Texas Chapters Regional. Additional information and registration form will be available at next Month's Lone Star Regional in Mesquite and can also be found online at https://net.nawcc.org/imis_15/NAWCC/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=MT15SYM.

Chapter membership renewal

It's time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2015.

Chapter membership

Please complete and return this form today.

Chapter 15 Membership Application
New Application / Renewal (circle one)
Membership Dues are \$15

You must be a current, paid NAWCC member to join a Chapter. You may be a member of more than one Chapter.

Please Print or Type

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

NAWCC Member # _____

HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____

 Please send my Chapter newsletter by email.

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC and send to:
Pat Holloway
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Spot a clock

Thanks to Jay Pine for providing this month's spot a clock located in Vienna.

Known as the Anker Clock (Ankeruhr), this clock located at Hoher Markt, forms a bridge between two buildings that comprise the offices of Anker Insurance Company. Painter and sculptor Franz von Matsch created this beautiful Art Nouveau style clock, which was built 1911-1914. According to visitors, noon is the best time to visit the clock. The following description is found on a Viennese sightseeing sight: Over the course of 12 hours, 12 historical figures or pairs of figures move across the bridge. Every day at noon, all of the figures parade, each accompanied by music from its era. During the Advent season daily at 5 and 6 p.m. Christmas Carols.



If you'd like to get a preview of what the visitors are talking you, you can find several videos of this amazing clock in action posted to YouTube.