



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

April 25th

Chapter 15 Annual Meeting and Election
10 a.m. – noon
Pok-e-Jo's – 2121 Parmer, Austin

April 26th

6:00 p.m.
NAWCC Webinar
"The Beginning of the Hermetic Wristwatch"

May 15th

Chapter 15 Program
Restoration of a Fusee Clock
Dulen Lee
10 a.m. – noon
Pok-e-Jo's – 2121 Parmer, Austin

April 26th

6:00 p.m.
NAWCC Webinar
"The American Watch Co. Grade – 40 Years of Excellence"

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,

It has been an interesting month by any measure. At the end of the month our family traveled and met in the Cincinnati-Covington area for the wedding of my nephew Todd. The weather was very chilly—mornings were in the low 20s and highs in the mid afternoon in the 30s. It was difficult to leave our nice 70s and 80s Austin weather to venture into the northern cold. But we all had a great time catching up and enjoying some great food, music and overall venue. It was the first time in a long time that all of us were in the same place at the same time. Thankfully everyone in the group experienced safe travels...back to work on Tuesday morning as usual.

One interesting side story was the "wild" early adulthood of my nephew. Oddly, it received a great deal of attention during the reception, when the Best Man's toast (also his best friend and partner in 'crime') provided us with a 10-minute recap of the Groom's 20s and early 30s. It was one of those times when I wondered how the poor chap felt sitting there with his new wife listening to his life story! But all went well and off they went happily on their honeymoon—presumably...

I wondered if this was the first time my brother (his dad) had heard these interesting stories of his son, or if he knew the whole story as it unfolded. One thing I have learned (from being a father myself) is that you never really know the whole story. It isn't always pleasant. In fact it can be quite trying, even heartbreaking at times. As painful as it is to watch your own early-adult offspring make their mistakes, it is a natural process and there is no substitute for it, unfortunately. We coach, encourage, and then hope that they don't make mistakes that cost them opportunity later.

Another interesting side story of our trip was the Covington, Kentucky area. Covington is situated on the opposite side of the Ohio River, across from Cincinnati. It was like traveling backwards in time! Growing up in the northern Ohio area, we were accustomed to incredible building architecture, multiple cavernous churches with unbelievable attention to detail from the outside in, sounding church bells in the street, and small individually-owned shops peppering the city streets. Some call this "Old World Craftsmanship." In my hometown of Cleveland, too much of this is now run down, empty shops, unsafe streets.

(continued on page 2)

Welcome new members
Ben Courtney - Kyle
Kurt Schrader - San Antonio

President's message – continued

In Covington, it was all still there, original, intact, and thriving. It was unbelievable to see. Anyone who travels to the Cincinnati area should take the time to walk the streets of Covington to get a flavor of well-preserved Midwest history and feel. And don't forget to cross the river and try the Cincinnati chili! I have included a picture that unfortunately doesn't do it justice, but does show the street clock on the left. (photo to the right)

This month we will hold our Annual Meeting at Pok-e-Jo's restaurant on Parmer Ln. in north Austin. We will be starting at 10:00 am. All in attendance are welcome to join us for lunch afterwards. We will be electing officers (as we do every 2 years), which will hopefully enable more participation for those wishing to serve in a Chapter 15 leadership role. We will also be reviewing our Chapter progress for the year, and recognizing those who have been with the NAWCC for 10, 20, and 40 years.

It is once again time to thank those in this Chapter who helped make everything happen this year. There are quite a few folks here in Chapter 15 whose voluntary time and effort keep the heartbeat of the Chapter going. Those who work hard to assemble, publish, and distribute our monthly Mainspring Newsletter are an example. Those who provide the financial reports, track membership details, keep the Chapter fiscally sound, are among those I would like to thank. And a special thanks to Jay Holloway for his effort in spearheading the Chapter of the Year Award application, which we were proud to celebrate earlier this year! Of course, everyone who steps in and provides the quality monthly programs for learning and interacting are key as well. Thank you all!

And once again, it is important to remind you that if you have a unique body of knowledge or experience and wish to share it, please do. We would be happy to have you speak and would be glad to help you prepare for it if you would like. As I have said in previous newsletters over the years, NEVER underestimate what you have learned or its potential value to others.



Upcoming Events

April 25th - Chapter 15 Annual Meeting, Elections and 60th Anniversary Celebration

Make plans now to join us at Pok-e-Jo's for this very special time. There will be a brief program as well as recap of the past year, and officer elections. If you would be willing to serve as a Chapter officer or director, please contact one of the current officers.

April 19th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

The April webinar topic is "The Beginning of the Hermetic Wristwatch." Additional information as well as a registration link are available on the NAWCC website(<http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>). While you're there, you can also view any of the past webinars that you might have missed.

The webinar format has been very well received, and the Program Committee is currently scheduling webinars for the remainder of the year. Please contact Pat Holloway if you would like to suggest a topic or speaker, or if you would be willing to present a program in the future. (patricia.w.holloway@gmail.com)

May 16th – Monthly program

Please note the date change to avoid conflicts with Memorial Day events. We will continue our look at various types of movements with Dulen Lee sharing his experiences restoring a vintage fusee clock. Dulen has long enjoyed working on fusee movements, and this is a great opportunity to learn from his firsthand experience.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account – No change	\$7,692.37
Regional Account – No Change	\$3,563.60

May 17th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Tom McIntyre is the speaker for May's webinar. Tom has done extensive watch research, and his programs are always packed with valuable information. His topic will be "The American Watch Co. Grade – 40 Years of Excellence." Additional information and a registration link will be available shortly on the NAWCC website (<http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>).

March program recap

A very enthusiastic group attended our March meeting, coming from all across Central Texas. After having been delayed a month thanks to Mother Nature icy temper, March's 400-Day Clock program was a welcome "twist on Spring" (pun intended!).

Before getting into the technical twists, Jay and Pat Holloway tag teamed to provide a quick 400-day timeline. Surprisingly to many, Aaron Dodd Crane, an American from New Jersey whose background was in farming rather than clockmaking, invented 400-day clocks. In addition to his efforts to make a year-running clock, he patented various improvements to turret or tower clocks, and ways to harness horse-power to turn pulleys.

Following this introduction, Jay continued the timeline from the late 1800s to present day. Although German makers dominated the timeline, Silas B. Terry made some early torsion pendulum clocks, and in 1883 New Haven advertised a 400-day clock.

Crane's torsion pendulum clocks were called 375 day or year-running clocks. The use of 400-day clocks dates to 1884. And, the name "Anniversary Clock" is a 1901 trademark used by Bowler & Burdick, importers from Cleveland, Ohio.

The program led into a lively discussion on the technical issues presented with torsion clocks. Due to the low number of beats per minute the clocks rarely need bushings, which may have repair people forgetting that they need to be thoroughly cleaned (including the mainspring) when they come in for repair. The pivots and pivot holes need polishing, the plates which are lacquered need to be cleaned because the time between service tends to be long and the old oil has jelled, collecting dirt and metal particles and reducing the power. The old oil may also attack the lacquer. Next putting the clock in beat is an issue due to the adjustments required for the dead-beat verge and the suspension spring with multiple adjustments.

Cool Clock Collecting

This month we'll take a look another group of diminutive clocks – a style known as Burroughs clocks. Not as ornate (nor as expensive) as the Zapplers we learned about last month, these clocks are very interesting. Their small size, affordable price and availability contribute to another cool, collectable group of clocks.

The back labels provide the style name and a



brief description of the clock. They are available in a variety of styles, some with a couple of variations as



seen in the clocks on each end above. One is No. 52 – English Lancel, and the other is No. 52T – English Lancel. Variations may include wood, dials, picture

inserts or movements. Unfortunately, information on these miniature replica clocks is very scarce. According to a research piece in the August 1998 *Bulletin*, well-known horologist Dana Blackwell indicated that The Burroughs Company (or Burroughs Adding Machine Company) contracted with Gilbert and others to make a series of advertising clocks to be used as a premium or give-away collectable for their customers. The article includes the pictures of and descriptions from several models.

The NAWCC Message Board provides a slightly different approach. In 2013, a contributor posted that these clocks were sold as novelty clocks and that his collection includes displays and original boxes with price tags. From the descriptions he mentioned, it seems there is far more variety than normally seen, with 30-hour and 8-day movements, with and without alarms, key wind and electric.

Regardless of their history, I think you'll agree that these are pretty cool little clocks!

Spot a clock

Pat Holloway spotted this Ingraham Bartholdi clock at the recent Lone Star Regional.

I was first attracted by the size and style of the clock, and then the model name caught my eye. Bartholdi was a name I had recently encountered in an 1887 Waterbury Watch Company advertising booklet called "Keep a Watch on Everybody." The theme of the booklet is that the current times call for vigilance and keeping a watch on everybody. Of course, who better to keep a "watch" on everybody than the Waterbury Watch Company? The individuals upon whom a watch should be kept included such dignitaries as President and Mrs. Cleveland, Jay Gould and P.T. Barnum. These were names I recognized, but I noticed that a gentleman named Bartholdi was also pictured. The caption below his picture should have been a give-away, but being a little slow to catch on to his identity, I decided to do a little research.

It turns out that a French sculptor named Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was best known for designing a little statue called *Liberty Enlightening the World* – better known as *The Statue of Liberty*! The statue had been erected in 1886, so Bartholdi was a name that would have been familiar to most Americans. And what better way to reward him for his magnificent efforts than with a Waterbury Watch and a clock model named in his honor!

