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Save these 2015 dates

September 26th

10 a.m. – noon
Program – Turn the Beat Around
Ken Reindel
Pok-e-Jo's – 2121 Parmer, Austin

September 27th

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar
"Starting a Vintage Wristwatch
Collection Without the Tears"
Adam Harris

October 17th

10 a.m. – noon
Program – Gear Cutting
Ken Reindel
Pok-e-Jo's – 2121 Parmer, Austin

October 18th

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar
"History of Cartoon and Comic Character
Watches"
Jeffrey Schuldenfrei

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President's Message

Dear Members,

Has anyone seen rain? After some historic April-June rainfalls it has been fairly hot and dry for two full months. Last weekend we saw some droplets. There's this distinction we make between rainfall and beneficial rainfall, so out I go in the early morning to hose down my very thirsty lawn.

This year we didn't make it to the Houston show. Due to a set of unforeseen circumstances, we had postponed our family visit to Colorado long enough and it was time to go. The primary purpose of the trip was to visit my brother who has lived there for 28 years. But as it turns out we did much more, including visiting some old business friends there who had founded a company building a special swept laser technology. We had a very interesting lunch. More on that later.

We enjoyed the cooler temperatures. In the morning, you wake up and go for your walk in 56-degree temperatures (up and down some hills!). By 3pm it is in the upper 80s, but then it is on its way down again by 6pm. We sat on my brother's back porch and realized that once the sun went down behind the mountains we needed to consider lighting the fire pit or putting on a sweater. It was such a relief from the 104 degree central Texas August.

My brother always "talks up" the great weather there. Funny though, this is the first trip in a long time where we didn't have to shovel snow to get into his driveway! Alas, he assured us that snow only lasts a few hours because of the morning sun—that is, as long as your driveway faces east!

Overall, visiting, driving about seeing the mountains and foothills was very enjoyable. We wish we had more time to do some really serious mountain sightseeing together. We'll have to make a more deliberate point of it in future visits...maybe visit the Stanley Hotel (remember the movie "The Shining"?) at Estes Park.

Some interesting notes from the last few NAWCC publications to which I want to draw your attention. First, Frederick Shelley's new "Early American Tower Clocks" illustrates surviving tower clocks from 1726 to 1870. There is an order form in the September/October issue of the *Mart*. Second, if you are a paper dial fan, take note. There is an article in the July/August *Bulletin*, page 385 on William Schmidt, who provides the very valuable service of restoring paper dials on old clocks.

Third, in the same July/August issue (page 359), a new book is announced on the history of the Smiths clock company (of England). The book, "A Long Time in Making," summarizes Smiths' history and is now
(continued on page 2)

President's Message continued

available for sale on Amazon. The history of this company is truly phenomenal! Our NAWCC publications continue to be wonderful sources of great tips, information, and historic/research results.

Please join us at Poke Jo's later this month for our Chapter 15 meeting. We are going to present our long-awaited topic on diagnosing clock issues using your ears!

Upcoming Events

September 26th – Chapter 15 Program

Continuing our focus on practical repair skills, Ken Reindel will be speaking on *Turn the Beat Around: Diagnosing Clock Issues from Beat*. In addition to learning how to use our ears, Ken will cover some of the useful tools when assessing beat issues.

September 27th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Adam Harris will be sharing tips on *Starting a Vintage Wristwatch Collection Without the Tears*. Adam is the volunteer wristwatch curator at the NAWCC Museum. The webinar will utilize many photographs to illustrate what to look for when collecting vintage wristwatches. There will also be plenty of time for questions and answers, with a follow up webinar scheduled for October 11th to cover any outstanding questions.

<http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>

October 9th – 10th – MKOA Regional, Wichita KS

In case you're looking for a road trip in early October, you might want to consider attending the MKOA Regional in Wichita KS. This is always a good show, with lots of friendly folks.

October 17th – Chapter 15 Program

As the next step in our programs on practical repair skills, Ken Reindel will discuss gear cutting as relates to horological applications, and will be demonstrating the basics. You won't want to miss this presentation!

October 22nd - 24th – Ward Francillon Time Symposium

We are very fortunate to have this year's Symposium on *Mechanical Music & Marvels* just down the road in Houston! This year's Symposium will feature presentations by experts in the field on topics covering music boxes, musical clocks and automata. As a very special feature, attendees will tour two extensive private collections. The registration covers all lectures, banquet Friday evening and lunch on Saturday. Additional information can be found on the Symposium website: <http://www.nawcc.org/symposium/index.html>

October 18th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Jeffrey Schuldenfrei will be speaking on *History of Cartoon and Comic Character Watches*. Attendees will have an opportunity to see examples of some fun and unusual watches and learn the stories behind them.

November 7th – Joint CAWCG and Chapter 15 class

This all day clock repair class at the Windermere Club House in Pflugerville will provide a round robin format for hands-on assistance with pivot issues, bushings, and escapements. The class is a wonderful follow-up to the earlier basic clock repair classes, as well as a good time to bring in that problem clock for some expert assistance with repairs. Watch for additional information in next month's newsletter, or contact Jay Holloway (512-294-7371 or jay@hollowaytrading.com) now to sign up.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account – No change	\$7,666.26
Regional Account – No change	\$3,438.60

July Program

At our July meeting, Pat Holloway gave a program called "1853: A Showman, A World's Fair and A Clock Company." This presentation focused on what was happening in the United States in the mid 1800s, and the involvement of one of the greatest showmen of all times, P.T. Barnum, in many of the events.

During this period, Barnum's efforts were making him a very wealthy man, as well as a household name. Among his accomplishments were founding two different newspapers; building a museum of oddities known as "Barnum's American Museum" in New York; a traveling show called "Barnum's Grand Scientific and Musical Theater." He also sponsored concerts, including arranging and sponsoring Jenny Lind's American tour, and he built the elegant "Moral Lecture Room" as a venue for readings, lectures, and theater performances that were suitable for family viewing. He and another gentleman were also involved in buying land and developing East Bridgeport, CT.

During this period, the 1853 Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations, often referred to as the 1853 World's Fair, opened in New York. Fashioned after the wildly successful 1851 Great Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace in London, this fair did not meet with the same results. In 1854, Barnum was asked to be a member of the Board of the troubled fair, and he was quickly elected as president. Interestingly, the Fair included exhibits by several clock companies. Clocks were exhibited in a very diverse group called

“Philosophical Instruments, and Products resulting from their use e.g. Daguerreotypes, Maps and Charts, Horology, Surgical Instruments and Appliances.” Aaron Dodd Crane’s astronomical clock was exhibited, as were clocks from Ansonia Clock Company (Theodore Terry, President), Jerome clocks (Chauncey Jerome) and Litchfield Manufactory Co.

After setting this historic stage, Pat outlined Barnum’s involvement with Litchfield clocks, of which he was a stockholder, with Theodore Terry after the disastrous fire at Ansonia to form Terry & Barnum, and ultimately with Chauncey Jerome. As many know, these alliances led to disastrous results for everyone involved. While Barnum was able to recover, the individuals involved with the clock companies did not fare as well.

In addition to this historical background, Pat also shared information on the papier-mâché clock cases made by Litchfield Clock Company. The discussion covered the processes for making the papier-mâché, japanning the cases for the glossy black finish, and various methods of ornamentation including painting, gilding, bronzing and shell.

Houston Regional

From all reports, the 2015 All Texas Chapter Regional was a resounding success for both sellers and buyers – despite heavy sporadic rains. Chapter 15 was well represented in both areas. Additionally, Jay Holloway gave a demonstration on statue refinishing and Pat Holloway “hosted” the 2015 Horological Jeopardy presentation.

As usual, there was an excellent line up of programs. Ralph Pokluda and Richard Cox, both very experienced clocksmiths, were speakers for “As the Clock Turns: A Repair Question Forum.” Richard and Ralph addressed a broad range of questions that had been submitted by attendees. This program elicited a lot of discussion and probably could have gone on for hours had time allowed. Shaun Clarke gave a very informative program on Assessing Common Pocket Watch Problems. The tips were very beneficial, whether examining a watch for purchase or for repair, and were presented in terms that everyone could understand.

Darrah Artzner and Tim Glanzman teamed to present “An Introduction to the Bulle Clock.” Their program covered historical, troubleshooting and repair topics. Since he has recently prepared for this presentation, perhaps we can convince Darrah to share some of the information in our Cool Clock Collecting feature!

On Saturday, Drew Lundgren provided a demonstration on cutting screws, and John Hubby gave a

program at the Chapter 168 (The International 400-Day Clock Chapter) meeting that was open to everyone.

Cool Clock Collecting

Almost everyone has at least one calendar clock in their collection, but did you ever think about how many approaches there are to collecting these interesting clocks? The possibilities are varied, and for this month, we’ll look at categorizing by maker.

Seth Thomas probably made some of the best-known calendar clocks, and within the Seth Thomas calendar clocks, you might choose to focus on one particular style – such as double dial clocks. Within each of the Seth Thomas double dial styles, numbers rather than names identify the models.

As their name indicates, the parlor calendar clocks were made primarily for home use. The parlor models vary in size from the Number 5 at 20” to the Number 10 at 36”. These clocks were available in a wide variety of cases, from very simple to highly ornate. Pictured here are a Number 10 and a Number 11 (36” and 30” respectively).



While the parlor models were made for home use, Seth Thomas also manufactured lines for office

applications that ranged in size from the 24” Office #3, or “Peanut” to a highly ornate Office Calendar #11. Pictured are Office Calendar #1 (40”) and #7 (26.5”).



You might also choose to focus on Southern Calendar Clock

Company clocks. Although, not originally Seth Thomas products, they did manufacture the time movement. These clocks, commonly known as Southern Fashion Calendar Clocks came in a number of models. Gerald



Siegel, who used a numbered naming convention in the February 1967 issue of the *Bulletin*, introduced the different model

numbers. This naming convention is used extensively now, including in Tran Duy Ly’s calendar clock book. Southern Fashion models 4, 3 and 2 are pictured above.

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Spot a clock

The 2015 All Texas Chapters Regional Exhibit featured some excellent examples of American Timepieces – both clocks and watches. But one of the most unusual pieces spotted was this amazing cake made by Katrina Clarke, whose husband Shaun is Vice-President of Chapter 139. The detail was amazing – to the point that many were tempted to touch it – and the entire cake was edible! With Ben Fulbright acting as auctioneer, the clock went to the high bidder, Marcus Bush. More pictures of the cake and other Regional activities can be found on the Chapter 139 website: <http://sanjacinto139.homestead.com/Gallery2.html>

