



# The MAIN SPRING

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

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## Save these 2015/2016 dates

### November 7<sup>th</sup>

Clock Repair workshop with CAWCC  
Windermere Clubhouse, Pflugerville

### November 15<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar  
“Exploring the Museum Collection From  
the Comfort of Your Home”  
Noel Poirier

### November 21<sup>st</sup>

10 a.m. – noon  
Jay Holloway  
“What’s In It For Me?”  
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

### January 23<sup>rd</sup>

10 a.m. – noon  
Chapter 15 Meeting  
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

### January 24<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar  
“Architectural Skeleton Clocks”  
R.O. (Bob) Schmitt

## Current Board Members

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## President’s Message

Those of you that have been reading my Messages for the last few years know that I usually start off with a bit of a short commentary on the weather. Well, the events of this late October leave us at somewhat of a loss for words, and yet it cannot be described in a short commentary either. Last week, Hurricane Patricia rolled in. We expected a weekend of somewhat violent weather and a great deal of rain. We sure experienced the rain, but it wasn’t so violent. This week we expected a little rain and a few thunderstorms as a front moved in. Instead, we had violent thunderstorms, hail, tornadoes and flooding up and down I-35 from San Antonio to Dallas. Here in Austin, we had flood levels that reminded us of the Memorial Day storms. Even Wimberley, hard hit on Memorial Day, saw businesses ruined and dangerous flood levels around the Blanco. Near the airport at 183 and 71, cars were under water. The airport’s primary radar system found itself under several inches of water, damaged, needing weeklong repairs. Likewise the flooding in Bastrop reached records for the month. Flood waters are STILL on the rise even now, Sunday morning, nearly 30 hours since the last raindrop fell.

But it wasn’t only (??) floodwaters. Down in San Marcos, a good friend and work associate of mine saw several neighbor’s homes within a few miles destroyed by tornadoes which touched down there early Friday. Fortunately the families are ok, but now left with homes in ruin. It has been incredible here in Central Texas as October winds down. Can you believe with all that we are still in a “moderate drought” situation?

The transition to Colorado continues for us. This week marked my last at American Innovations. It was truly bittersweet. No question it was the most enjoyable job I’ve ever had. Meanwhile, I have already been contacted by several members who have clocks in my shop offering well wishes, and concerns about their clocks. Please do not worry—if you have a clock in the shop here it will be fine. Chances are it will be finished and returned before we move the shop. If not it will be carefully moved and shipped back to you when done. Some of the clocks we have wouldn’t survive shipping, and these are receiving first priority in the schedule. Of course, we also receive our fair share of emails and calls from non-local folks who have staked out a more “hostile” position about the whole thing, complaining that now they can’t get their clocks in and out before February 2016. Oh well, life goes on. We can only do our best. (continued page 2)

*Welcome New Member*  
*Pace McDonald*  
*Georgetown TX*

## President's message - continued

This morning's NAWCC Executive Director's Newsletter highlighted the following. The National Watch and Clock Museum has partnered with Bulova Watch and Richard Callamaras, an avid collector and member, to create an exhibition, which revolves around Bulova's reputation for its marketing firsts. Bulova was the first watch or clock company to broadcast and advertise on the radio, to market watches specifically to women, to show a commercial on television, and to open a school for disabled veterans that provided them with employment and a skill after the war. The Museum has partnered with them to put together the exhibit, **Bulova: A History of Modern**, which opened on October 29. The exhibit will feature nearly 40 watches, which map out their unique history. Several of them are very rare. The exhibit will run through April 30, 2016.

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 her detailed schedule below.

## Upcoming Events

### November 7<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:jay@hollowaytrading.com)) now to sign up.

### November 15<sup>th</sup> – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Noel Poirier, NAWCC Museum Director, will speak on *Exploring the Museum Collection From the Comfort of Your Home*. You may sign up for this informative "how-to" program today at <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>

### November 21<sup>st</sup> – Chapter 15 Program

As we go into our last meeting of the year, we'll be taking time to recap 2015 and focus on where we're going in 2016 as we talk about "What's In It For Me?"

### December – Enjoy the holidays with friends and family

### January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chapter 15 Program

2016 will kick off with a program on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### January 24<sup>th</sup> – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

R.O. (Bob) Schmitt will present the first 2016 webinar program. The program will be on "English Skeleton Clocks with an emphasis on Architectural Models." Plan now to join and learn about these clocks. <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>

## Chapter membership renewal

It's that time again – time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2016. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed! If you have not yet renewed, please take a few minutes to send along the completed form and payment. If you have an email address, please consider receiving your newsletter via email as it helps control our costs.

### Chapter membership

If you've not yet renewed for 2016, 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

*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  
Enclose this application and check and send to:  
Pat Holloway  
1105 Lafayette Lane  
Pflugerville TX 78660

## October Program Recap

In October, Jay Holloway shared a program on *The History of the Welch Clock Company*. Several years ago, Jay gave a very informative program on Welch, Spring and Company. While that was a very important part of the company's history, this presentation filled in the rest of the story, including some very interesting background around clock making in and around Bristol, CT during this period.

The Welch family started out moving to Bristol and running a foundry making clock parts. From that start, they began selling clocks and financing clock makers, which led to their acquiring clock companies.

E.N. Welch was the largest clock manufacturer in Bristol by the 1860s but he continued to expand his product line to double dial calendar clocks and high quality regulators. This series of clocks are known to be some of the best clocks made in CT. Welch companies had relationships with many of the most famous clockmakers in CT. The interesting aspect about Welch is the connections with these people led to the beginning of his companies and wealth, then the growth of his companies and the later change of ownership to the Session family who carried on the manufacture of clocks into WWII.

automatons, bird boxes, whistlers and other types of musical boxes and clocks.

Despite a stormy Saturday afternoon, we were invited to visit two private collections of mechanical music. The first home that we visited was in the Memorial area of Houston. Our hosts graciously invited us into their home and showed us an impressive array of mechanical music ranging from bird boxes to an orchestrion located in the garage.

The second home was a two story Victorian home located in the Heights. From the first step into the doorway, we were in awe of the outstanding mechanical music collection. It wasn't long before the house was filled with music from these marvelous devices.

The Mechanical Music Symposium may have been my first symposium but it definitely won't be my last!

## Cool Clock Collecting

This month, we're combining our **Spot a Clock** and **Cool Clock Collecting** features. Little did we know when we shared Don White's picture of the astronomical clock in the Notre-Dame cathedral in Strasbourg, France, that the clock on this site that was completed in 1574 was one of the first musical clocks with automata as well as a six tune carillon. Although this clock would make a *really* cool addition to a clock collection, it's been replaced by the current clock, still probably a little too large, and out of the price range for most of us!



Fortunately, while in Houston for the Time Symposium, we spotted some later, and smaller, musical clocks and clockwork mechanisms that would be feasible to collect. As Don mentioned, well-known and respected speakers and authors treated us to outstanding informational presentations that helped understand what to look for and what to avoid when purchasing a mechanical music piece.

If you recall, the winner of the 2015 NAWCC Craft Contest was a musical clock made by Dave Weisbart. Dave was one of the Symposium speakers, outlining his creative process – and he even brought the clock for everyone to see! As a bonus, we learned that this process is also detailed in an article in the November *Clock and Watch Bulletin*.

Treasurer's Report (September/October)	
<b>Chapter Account</b>	<b>\$7,666.26</b>
<b>Inc:</b> Dues	160.00
<b>Exp:</b> Newsletter and postage	-75.80
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$7,750.46</b>
<b>Regional Account</b>	<b>\$3,438.60</b>
<b>Exp:</b> No change	

## 2015 Time Symposium

### Mechanical Music & Marvels

- Don Bugh, College Station TX

In late October, I had the opportunity to attend my first NAWCC Symposium. This symposium got my attention for two reasons – first it was concentrating on mechanical music, a definite interest of mine. Second it was in Houston. Not knowing what to expect, I quickly found myself among 65 other mechanical music enthusiasts from across the US and even a few countries. Beginning with a keynote address Thursday evening and ending around noon on Saturday, we were treated to a dozen lectures that began with the history of music boxes. We learned about black forest clocks, musical clock movements,

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## Spot a clock

### And Cool clock collecting

Thanks to Sandy Cranfill, Chair of this year's Symposium, for sharing the following pictures of mechanical music devices similar to those that were spotted at the Symposium.

