

The MAINSPRING

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

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Save these 2016 dates

February 20th

10 a.m. – noon
Pat Holloway
Elgin National Watch Company
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

February 21st

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar
“Horology in Art”
Bob Frishman

March 4th – 5th

Lone Star Regional
Mesquite

March 19th

10 a.m. – noon
Horological Tools
Everyone participates
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

March 20th

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar
“Rockford Watch Company”
Darrah Artzner

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,

Last year at this time we were wondering when the warm weather was going to return to Austin. Well, as much as I wanted to complete this Message yesterday morning, I spent most of my available time digging out from the remains of Winter Storm Kayla here in Broomfield, Colorado. She left a good 14 inches of snow on our driveways, sidewalks, porches and streets here. Glad that I can put the snow shovel away for now and resume other activities. Since ironically snowstorms here are actually fairly infrequent, shoveling is probably comparable in time consumption to watering the lawn several times a week as I did in Austin—just the season is different! That said, a quick look at the temps in Austin show that things have been warming up in central Texas. El Nino seems to have left Austin a bit dry for the moment, but it’s still early. Winter will probably return to central Texas before too long, and then, there are the spring rains to look forward to. Lake Travis appears to be leveling off around 678 feet, which is very near full, and so hopefully that will mean most communities will have (or have already) eased water restrictions in the upcoming months.

Well, setup of the shop here in Broomfield continues. We’re getting very close to re-opening. The shop is spacious and wonderful, plenty of room to move around—and for classes down the road! Here you can see a picture of the progress from one perspective; there are many others. Many lessons were learned in the setup of this shop. One of the biggest problems I had (as I slowly outgrew the previous space) was storage and organization. Without enough storage, it doesn’t take long before every horizontal surface becomes a storage area. This is bad, because bench space is ALSO at a premium. Keeping supplies stored off, in closets, in boxes can be a real hindrance to productivity, too.



In clock repair, wall space is also at a premium and we cannot forget that we need it. We often test run customer clocks and we need a place to hang them, so we don’t want to clutter shop wall space with shelves; and for that matter, our own personal clocks. Cleanliness is important, too. If we are cutting wood in one end of the shop for a case repair job, how do we keep dust and dirt out of our precious, newly restored movements on test runs? What about paint touch-up? There are some interesting ways to tackle these problems; too many to cover here. (Continued on page 2)

President's message - continued

There are some simple ways to avoid pitfalls. Many more lessons need to be shared. If you are looking to set up or improve your clock shop, I hope to present a Program in April to Chapter 15 in Austin related to setting up a clock shop (see below). I hope that the lessons learned from my recent move experience can benefit others.

The year is starting out with a bang (or more appropriately a Ding) in Chapter 15. Last month Jay Holloway presented the results of an English tall clock restoration. That one was a challenge. It was very rewarding to see that clock running and striking properly again. Fabrication and duplication of many parts was necessary—as it often is with any vintage clocks, and especially those that have been “maintained” for 200 years or more. Jay shared with you the importance of attention to detail in every part that is fabricated. We don't ever want to lose the style or intent of the original maker, nor do we want to alter the functionality of the movement and should not whenever possible.

Not long ago I presented a program on a comparison of periodicals. You recall we did a deep dive into articles presented in the *NAWCC Clock and Watch Bulletin*, *The Horological Journal*, *Horological Times*, and others. You might recall that one author in particular (Guy Gibbons) publishes a series of articles entitled “After the DLC...” I want to reference his articles as an excellent source of ideas and information on techniques and methods for fabricating replacement parts for fine English or English-style clocks of all vintages. His attention to the period details, his articulate understanding of materials, machining and finishing techniques, etc. are what make the series interesting. You'll have to sign up to be a member of BHI but if you are interested in the kind of work Jay presented; it is a small price to pay. The NAWCC publications are excellent, but for obvious reasons articles on English clock restorations in the NAWCC publications will naturally be few and far between.

We are committed to continuing great programs 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. As we've reminded you many times, education and training is a key component of Chapter 15's Mission Statement and

there are many folks in the Chapter with knowledge to share. Here's how the rest of the year is looking right now for Chapter 15 programs. As you can see, our legacy of interesting programs continues, but only with your help:

February - Pat will present on History of the Elgin National Watch Company.

March – a program to involve everyone - bring your favorite, most useful or most unusual horological tool.

April – I am hoping to do the presentation in Austin: “Setting Up a Clock Shop: Guidelines and Lessons.”

May - Dulen will present. Topic TBD.

During the remainder of the year, we will hear from Gary Sertich, Jay Pines, Craig Jennings (on clocks he has made). And, I will present a second program later in the year. Once we know more about these, we will let you know.

In addition, we will have some Chapter workdays for reverse glass painting and case restoration outside of the normal meetings. These are fun! Think about attending and working on one of your project clocks.

Our next NAWCC Chapter 124 Lone Star Regional in Mesquite is rapidly approaching. Last year we had a great showing from Chapter 15 at Mesquite. Hopefully we will see similar this year. We are considering going as well, but will need to weigh that against time we need to get our unpacking and settling done. Hopefully we can make it and if we do we look forward to seeing all of our friends from Chapter 15. Mike Dempsey will present Part 2 of his Hairspring Workshop (the day before the Regional starts). The exhibits are always outstanding and it is considered the biggest NAWCC Mart in Texas with over 30,000 square feet of Mart area. For registration questions or problems, contact Gene Meysenburg at gm1000@prodigy.net or 214-328-1984.

Upcoming Events

February 20th – Chapter 15 Program

Pat Holloway will be talking about “Elgin National Watch Company: Their History and Marketing.” Many of us have heard of Elgin watches, but how many of us know their history; or that Elgin also played a very important part in the 1933 Chicago World's Fair; or that some of their World War I era advertising has been called propaganda? Join us on the 20th to learn more about this fascinating company.

February 21st – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Expanding on his popular series of articles in Watch & Clock Bulletin, Bob Frishman will present

highlights from his large collection of fine art images that include a clock or watch within the scene. From Van Gogh to Dali, Titian, Homer, Magritte, Hopper, Rockwell and many more, these artists are familiar to art lovers but have not been joined together in this unique way.

You may register now at the following link <http://www.nawcc.org/index.php/workshops/webinars>

March 4th and 5th – Lone Star Regional; Mesquite

Unloading begins on Thursday afternoon, March 3rd. Workshops are before the Regional.

March 19th – Chapter 15 Program

Bring a horological tool – this could be your favorite, most useful, most unusual, or even a “What’s It?” tool. Sharing this type of tools and bench tips can help all of us improve our skill.

March 20th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Chapter 15 member Darrah Artzner will speak on The Rockford Watch Company.

January Program Recap

To kick off the year, Jay Holloway gave a program on the restoration of an American tall case clock. The clock was attributed to Benjamin Cheney who had a student named Benjamin Willard. Benjamin Willard is noted as the clockmaker who trained his younger brother Simon Willard.

The true interest in the clock is in the restoration of the item. Somewhere in its life a key area on the front plate was cut out and later soldered back into place. Whether the cut out was done originally or at a later time no one knows but there seems to be no logical reason for the damage to be done. The cut area going through the middle of the strike side mainwheel arbor and later next to the standoff holding the rack in place (which was screwed into the plate) created major structural problems.

The client said the clock would not stop striking and they wanted it restored. They had an appraisal showing a value of \$25,000. The story of ownership went back over 100 years when their family acquired the clock.

Other damage to the clock included pivot holes that had been punched as well as closed with a chisel. This left many large holes and gashes on the plates, front and back. Restoration required extensive time and effort soldering the cut out and pinning the cutout at several places to strengthen the repair. A large bushing for the mainwheel arbor helped to solidify the repair. The punched holes required bushings to restore true round holes. The plates were sanded with fine sandpaper to provide a bright smooth finish after the repairs.

The final stage was to return the clock and adjust the bell strike so the owner would not be disturbed. The owners were very pleased with the restoration.

Chapter membership renewal

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed for 2016! If you have not yet renewed, please take a few minutes to send along the completed form and payment.

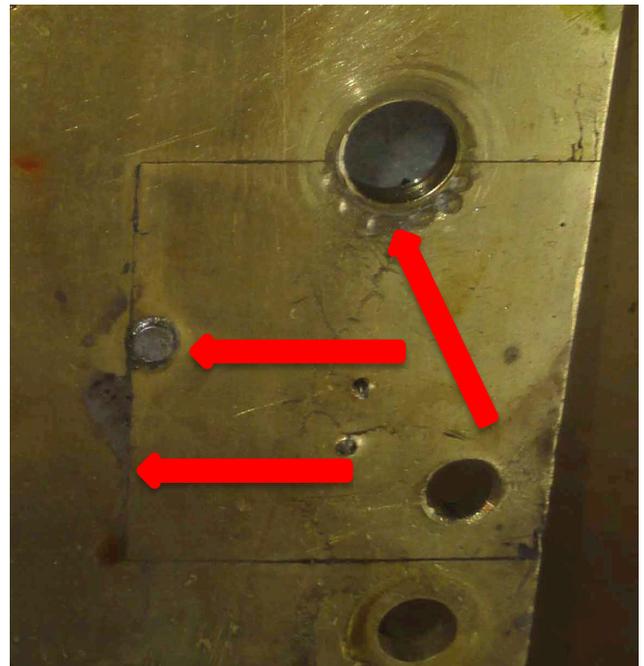
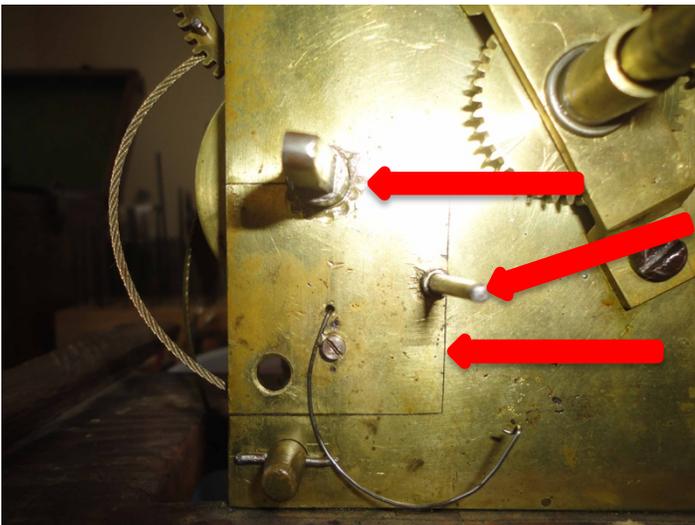
<p>Chapter membership</p> <p>If you’ve not yet renewed for 2016, please take a few minutes to complete and return the form below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 15 Membership Application New Application / Renewal (circle one) Membership Dues are \$15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>You must be a current, paid NAWCC member to join a Chapter. You may be a member of more than one Chapter.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Please Print or Type</u></p>
<p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SPOUSE’S NAME: _____</p> <p>STREET: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____</p> <p>STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>PHONE: _____</p> <p>NAWCC Member # _____</p> <p>HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>_____</u> <i>Please send my Chapter newsletter by email.</i></p> <p>Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC Enclose this application and check and send to: Pat Holloway 1105 Lafayette Lane Pflugerville TX 78660</p>

Treasurer’s Report	
Chapter Account	\$8,162.58
Inc: Dues	150.00
Exp: Newsletter and annual insurance	-508.44
Closing Balance	\$7,744.14
Regional Account	\$3,438.60
Exp: None	

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15
1105 Lafayette Lane
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Spot a clock

This month's spot a clock features pictures from the clock restoration Jay outlined during his January presentation.



Front and back views showing the cut out section, screwed in standoff and punched plate that all had to be carefully restored.