

# 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

### November 12<sup>th</sup>

10 a.m. – noon  
Program – Craig Jennings  
*Handmade Clocks and some repairs and restorations*  
Pok-e-Jo’s – 2121 Parmer, Austin

### November 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar  
*Timely Resources: Navigating the NAWCC Library & Research Center*  
Sara Dockery

### December

#### No meetings or webinars

Enjoy the time with family and friends

### January 7<sup>th</sup>

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Workshop – 400-Day Clock Repair  
Pflugerville TX 78660

### January 21<sup>st</sup>

10 a.m. – noon – Chapter meeting

### January 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar  
*How it’s made – the Vortic watch conversion*  
J.T. Custer

## Current Board Members

President – Jay Holloway  
[President@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:President@nawcc-chapter15.org)

Vice-President – Ken Reindel  
[VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org)

Treasurer – Don White  
[Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org)

Secretary – Pat Holloway  
[Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org)

Director of Programs – Gary Sertich  
[Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org](mailto:Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org)

## President’s Message

Dear Members and Friends of Chapter 15,

Our November meeting marks the last meeting of the year for our Chapter. The holiday season is upon us with parties, vacations and family time keeping everyone busy. We encourage everyone to enjoy this TIME and prepare for 2017.

2017 begins quickly with a clock training class for Anniversary or 400 Day Clocks on January 7th. The class is \$25 and it will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Windermere Clubhouse, 16800 Gower, Pflugerville, TX. Please contact Jay Holloway if you plan to attend to confirm a space. Currently we have nearly 20 people signed up. You may pay at the door but we need a good head count. If you do not have a 400-day clock, we will provide one. You will need to check the clock you are bringing to determine if you are missing parts. We will provide parts such as suspension springs (for a fee) but we need to know the model and parts missing.

It is time to renew your Chapter 15 membership and also remember the NAWCC endowment programs that are designed to keep the organization viable well into the future. Gifts are tax deductible and certainly appreciated. Gifts given online November 18<sup>th</sup> through the Extraordinary Give will be augmented with a contribution from the Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) Community Foundation. There are also opportunities for the NAWCC to win extra donations from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and sponsors. You can learn more about the 2016 Extraordinary Give on the home page of the NAWCC website.

At several of our meetings, we have discussed navigating and finding things on the NAWCC website. On this month’s webinar, Sara Dockery will be talking about Timely Resources: Navigating the NAWCC Library & Research Center. Part of her presentation will cover the many online resources. In case you can’t attend the live presentation, the recorded program will be available a couple of days afterwards.

Craig Jennings is presenting the November program. For anyone who has been to his house, you have seen his experience in clock repair and wood-work and how he has fused the two for his enjoyment. We look forward to an interesting presentation and seeing you there.

Jay

**THE TIME IS NOW**  
**TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE**  
**2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

## Ken's Corner

Ken Reindel 10-31-16

Have you ever seen or worked on a Cifra 5 Flip Clock? These are impressive clocks, measuring a massive 11" wide x 7" tall x 4" deep. The cases are not plastic—they are a heavy die cast material. They are one very robust and well-built clock. (pictured right).

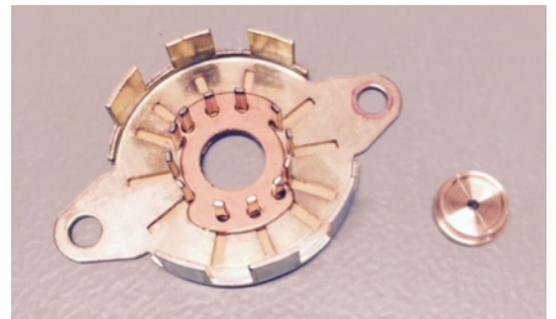
This particular clock is designed for tabletop use, as opposed to wall hanging—for which they make (or made) different versions of the base. The base on this clock, in fact, looks like it was made on a 3-D printer. It was not molded; perhaps these were not sold in great quantity? This unit is marked "Made in Italy." This is an example of a clock suggested by Jay's President's Message last month, a modern clock that deserves recognition. In this case, it is European in descent.



From what I can tell, the date of manufacture of this clock is 1968. Internally, it is very well built. The plates are .080" thick, the pivots large and well-polished. In fact, while there were 3 holes that required rebushing (in addition to the motor which I will cover later), no pivots had any noticeable wear. It was quite impressive.

The movement itself is technically self-winding. It is fundamentally a jeweled lever and balance escapement clock powered by a spring, which is wound electrically. Fully wound, it has a run time reserve of 8 hours. So, although it is electric, timekeeping is not determined by the power line frequency but instead by an adjustment to a hairspring, much like a fine watch.

The motor continues to be a headache on this unit. I can usually restore coils (fabricate a bobbin and then rewind) or the bearings (I keep a stock of hard bearing bronze on hand for fabricating replacement motor bearings). In this case, both bearings, which were originally cast in place (plastic) around the housing, were worn out beyond use. In fact, it was amazing the motor still ran at all since there was enough play in both bearings such that the internal rotor thrashed about between the poles! I took the time (a few hours) to remove the original bearings, turn up a complex bearing for each side, and then stake the new parts in place.



But then, much to my surprise, the motor has a tendency (perhaps one out of 10 times) to start in the wrong direction! It has very little power if it starts that way, but it doesn't need much power to unwind the spring! There isn't much we can do when the original motor has a design defect like this. I've already ordered a new similar Philips motor (available in the UK but not here). That might be the easiest solution to the remaining malaise from which this Cifra 5 suffers.

All in all, this promises to be a great clock once the remaining issue is resolved.

*(Note from the editor)*

Additional information on Cifra clocks can be found online, including a New York Times Style article by Tom Delavan from September 6, 2016. From the Design & Interiors section, the article is titled "The Clock That Time Cannot Improve". It seems that the Cifra clocks were the brainchild of Remigio Solari, a self-taught engineer whose family business had been making tower clocks in Northern Italy since 1725. The basis was numbers on metal flaps that rotated around a wheel. Known as a "Solari board", the first use was in a train station in Belgium in 1965, then other train stations and airports.

Following Remigio's death in 1957, his brother Fermo and architect Gino Valle continued his work, introducing the Cifra 5 which won a Compasso d'Oro award at Milan's International Furniture Fair. In the mid-60s, they introduced the Cifra 3. According to the article, this clock is credited with the explosion of "digital" clocks, and was copied by many manufacturers. A Cifra 3 is included in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The reason given for its addition is that it "was and is "the purest expression of industrial design"". Due to the continued popularity of the style, Solari's new owners are now producing the Cifra 3 again.

Interestingly, these clocks are very reminiscent of the Plato and early advertising clocks made around the turn of the century. To learn more, search online for Cifra or Solari board.

## Chapter membership renewal

It's that time again. If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, please take a few minutes to send along the completed form and payment.

<p><b>Chapter membership</b></p> <p>If you've not yet renewed for 2017, please take a few minutes to complete and return the form below.</p> <p>Chapter 15 Membership Application            New Application / Renewal (circle one)            Membership Dues are \$15</p> <p><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><b><u>Please Print or Type</u></b></p>	
NAME: _____	
SPOUSE'S NAME: _____	
STREET: _____	
CITY: _____	
STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____	
EMAIL: _____	
PHONE: _____	
NAWCC Member # _____	
HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____	
<p>_____ <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	
<b>Chapter Account</b>	<b>\$7,212.89</b>
<b>Inc</b> Dues	135.00
<b>Exp</b> Sept. and Oct. newsletter (8.77 ea.)	<u>-17.54</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$7,830.35</b>
<b>Regional Account – no change</b>	<b>\$3,213.60</b>

**Now is the time to decide –  
 What will I enter in the  
 2017 National Craft Contest?**

Let's help put on a Texas-sized contest with an even stronger showing from Chapter 15 members!

## Upcoming Events

### November 12<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 15 Program

Craig Jennings will be talking about some of the clocks he has made, as well as some he has repaired and restored through the years. If you've ever toyed with the idea of making a clock case to fit a spare movement, or if you enjoy hearing about some interesting repairs, you won't want to miss Craig's program.

### November 13<sup>th</sup> – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

The majority of our members are aware of the existence of the Library & Research Center, but many are not aware of how many of the resources are available online. From the comfort of their home computer NAWCC members can find information about watch and clock companies, read back issues of the Bulletin, watch videos, borrow library materials, and more! Library & Archives Supervisor Sara Butler Dockery will walk viewers through accessing the library online and making the most of what is available.

<http://nawcc.org/index.php/1753-new-webinar-timely-resources>

### January 7<sup>th</sup> – Workshop – 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Joint CAWCG and Chapter 15 workshop. This 400-Day clock class will be held at the Windermere Clubhouse in Pflugerville.

## CRC Newsletter

The NAWCC organizational structure incorporates volunteer committees to provide for Member and public participation in its programs, operations, and workings, and to minimize the number of permanent staff required for conducting business. One of these groups is the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC). Chaired by Mrs. Lu Sadowski, the Committee has a wide range of responsibilities, all focused around supporting the local chapters.

Twice a year the CRC prepares a very informative newsletter that is sent to Chapter officers and links are posted in the Members > Our Association > NAWCC Documents area of the website. The Winter 2016 issues is packed with updates as well as hints from Chapters on retention and recruitment activities that we can consider for 2017. These hints include becoming ambassadors by welcoming new members and guests; getting in touch with member who may not be attending or may have missed a meeting; inviting guests or encouraging non-Chapter members in the area to attend meetings and workshops; and staying active in other horology-related activities in your area. Don't be shy, help spread the word and grow our Chapter in 2017!

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15  
1105 Lafayette Lane  
Pflugerville TX 78660

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## Spot a clock

During the October meeting, there was some discussion about clocks made for the southern market after the Civil War. Here is one such clock recently spotted in a private collection: It is made by the Davis Clock Company using a Gilbert simple calendar clock movement. The Davis Clock Co., located in Columbus MS, also had a branch in Texarkana AR.

To learn more about clocks made for the southern market, you might want to check out a copy of *Dixie Clockmakers* by James W. Gibbs. While it doesn't address some makers such as Southern Fashion Clock Company from Missouri, this book does cover clocks made in "Dixie" – states situated south of the Mason-Dixon line and east of the Mississippi River.

