



San Jacinto Star



**A newsletter for and
about members of San
Jacinto Chapter 139 of the
National Association of
Watch and Clock
Collectors.**

Editor – Pat Holloway

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President's message

Well another year in the rear-view mirror. Aren't we all tired of Covid! Let's pray that 2022 brings us a prosperous, healthy and joyful year. Since our last newsletter we were able to still gather for tech sessions and a One-Day Show.

In October, we viewed an Elgin watch repair video followed by an interesting discussion regarding the instructor's techniques. Later in October the Chapter hosted a watch repair class thanks to instructors Darrah Artzner and Mike Dewlen. The two-day class was sold out with a wait list! I'm sure there will be more to come. In fact, Ken Arnold volunteered to teach a basic clock repair class this year.

In November, at Grace community Church we held a One-Day Show and Tech Session combined. The highlight of that event was that I was fortunate to present Marcus Bush a well-deserved and long-awaited NAWCC Fellow Award. Marcus is always helping, volunteering and going the extra mile. He has been a member of NAWCC for over 50 years and can always be found lending a hand wherever needed.

December, we had about 50 members and friends come together and celebrate the holidays at Grace Community Church. Lots of food, a White Elephant exchange and a Show-n-Tell. We are so grateful to have a very convenient place to meet in the church. During the party there was an ongoing slide show, (thanks Gordon Shahin) from parties and events in the past. That was fun to see.

This year we should see the completion of the Galveston Clocks restoration, the return of Lone Star Regional in Mesquite and much more. Stay tuned!!!

Happy New Year to all and see you soon.

JEFF ZUSPAN

Start the new year off right.

*Check the upcoming events on page 6 and mark your calendars
to join in the fun and knowledge sharing!*

Educational events

October Basic Pocket Watch Servicing Class

Darrah Artzner – FNAWCC

This was the first 16 size three quarter plate pocket watch class in almost four years because of the pandemic situation and due to the relocation (employment) of two members/instructors: Shaun Clarke and Geoffrey Parker. Luckily, a previous student of one of our pocket watch classes took a full-fledged watchmaker course, through the influence of Shaun, that honed his existing skills into becoming a highly qualified and knowledgeable instructor. This member is Michael Dewlen and his skills both in horology

and teaching are a great asset to the class, and the Chapter thanks him for it.

Five students were in attendance on October 16-17, 2021 for the “Basic Pocket Watch Servicing” class held in the cafeteria of Turn-Key Coatings, Inc. They are: Terry Didonato, Carl Belleri, Randy Hohlt, Bob Turk and Desmond Rolf. Instructors were Darrah Artzner and Michael Dewlen and assisted by Bill Hardy.

After coffee and kolaches, the class commenced with a short video explaining pocket watch operation followed by an exercise in grade and model identification. A student guide was provided for each student that is packed full of information and can be used as a reference when needed. It was also displayed on a large screen to assist the students during the class, as well as additional photos to provide detail of specific procedures.

The students were then lead through proper care and sharpening of screwdrivers and tweezers (types, uses, strengths and finishing the tips and holding (contact) surface) before testing their skills on a dexterity exercise on how to handle small parts. After the dexterity exercise, one of the students said he didn’t realize screws could be made that small and thought they were specs of dirt.

The students were taught how to safely remove the hands and movement from the case followed by commencement of movement disassembly. Once disassembly began the structured class quickly changed due to varied skills of students. The class then moved on to component identification and inspection for wear and damage. The first day concluded with a practical exercise on mainspring removal, inspection, lubrication and reassembly. The instructors stressed the importance of a good, clean mainspring as this is critical in any watch performance. Cleaning of all other pocket watch parts was not performed due to time constraints; however, all Chapter-supplied watches had been cleaned or inspected for cleanliness and were suitable for use.



*Above: Michael Dewlen, Carl Belleri and Bob Turk
Below: Bill Hardy, Randy Hohlt and Desmond Rolf*



One student-supplied watch movement had not been inspected prior to class and had a broken mainspring. Luckily, the instructors prepared for this situation and had a replacement on hand.

On the second day, the students were eager to continue with the reassembly process. There was a slight issue with a student needing to leave early as this made final running and adjustment of the movement difficult. However, this situation was to be remedied in a future Tech Session. The remaining students continued with lubrication instructions to give students a sense of quantity and where to apply it. Balances were then

installed with great care and all of these students successfully ended up with a running watch, with minor assistance. Basic regulation on a timing machine was completed after the movements were re-cased and hands installed.

This is the first class in which Teflon cooking mats were used at each student's work area and everyone considered them a great addition. They especially liked the surface which prevented watch parts from bouncing and leaving the worker's area. Well, a couple of parts made it to the floor but a magnetic broom recovered them in short order.

The class continues to prove popular for those interested in exploring an introduction to Pocket Watch Servicing and we hope to continue with this class on a regular basis. Overall, it was a great success and I would like to thank fellow instructor Michael Dewlen and assistant Bill Hardy for their invaluable support and assistance, and Tim Glanzman for the use of his facility. According to Michael, the class was well attended by a group of very motivated students with a broad background on watches. Each had different reasons for learning - from having watch collections they want to maintain, family collections of tools and watches, to simply wanting to learn more about watches. Everyone had a great time and left with a much greater appreciation and skillset for getting started with pocket watches.

Please contact Darrah or Michael (*contact info can be found on the Chapter 139 website*) if you have any questions or are interested in attending a future class.

2021 NAWCC Symposium

(written by Ralph Pokluda)

Bob Frishman hit another home run in hosting the annual NAWCC Symposium in Philadelphia in October 2021. It was a jam packed four days of lectures, tours, sightseeing and eating (can't forget that). See the upcoming article in the Bulletin to get a rundown on the lectures offered that were tailored to "Horology in the Revolutionary Period in America" – they were Great!! with one surprising showstopper – George Washington's clock.

We saw some iconic clocks in Philadelphia from the public clock outside on the wall of Independence Hall, to the David Rittenhouse astronomical tall case at Drexel Institute, to the 18-foot tall case by Isaiah Lukens in the Atheneum Library, and more in Philadelphia. (Did I mention the great weather?).

We took advantage of the optional bus tour on Sunday to Lancaster county – what a treat – first stop NAWCC headquarters. If you haven't made it there- put it on your bucket list. An added benefit was seeing the expansive collection of Joseph Ives clocks recently donated by our own George Goolsby filling the entire special exhibit room. Last stop was at Rock Ford museum, a beautiful 18th century historic home with a surprising collection of over forty Lancaster county tall case clocks with a great lecture and great food/ambiance.

Below: Terry Didonato, Michael Dewlen and Darrah Artzner



It was a great four days. If you've never attended a Symposium, you may be missing what is my favorite NAWCC event – start planning for next October.

P.S. Plans are in the works for a tour of what arguably is the finest collection of 18th century American clocks.

Tech Sessions

October Tech Session

Over 30 gathered to watch an Elgin Pocket Watch repair video. The video instructor had very good recommendations and also at times unorthodox techniques which made for a very lively discussion. The video was presented because the chapter was hosting a future Elgin watch repair class.

Darrah Artzner brought a sampling of tools that will be used for the pocket watch class, which he is the instructor. We also had a show and tell. Freeman Mendell brought a poisoning tool that was made on a 3D printer. Bob Kleeman showed off a home-made birdhouse made of clock and watch bits. A watch cleaning machine was demonstrated by Bill Hardy. Steve Egloff shared his recent find of an 1880's watch test plate from Bradley Horological. Digital calipers of different price points were compared by Tim Glanzman. Albert Rambaud presented the Lantern Pinion that he made. All this while eating donuts, breakfast tacos and drinking plenty of coffee.



November Tech Session and One-Day

Tables were set up and many were present for November's One-Day Mart. Clocks, watches and dollars traded hands. The big event though was Marcus Bush receiving his long-awaited NAWCC Fellow Award! With his wife Becky in attendance all were very excited. Marcus was to be presented during the All Texas Regional in August, but unfortunately, he was not able to attend.



Andy Staton, Chairman of the Galveston Clocks Restoration Committee gave an update and a presentation along with several committee members on the status of repairs. Albert Rambaud showed photos of the street clock movement and Desmond Rolf presented his mock up for a self-wind mechanism for the E. Howard tower clock.



Galveston Clock Restoration Committee Update

On November 15th the Galveston Clocks committee converged on to Galveston Island. One group re-assembled the lollipop double dial street clock located on the Strand while group two dismantled the Frost Bank E. Howard tower clock.

Gordon Shahin and Albert Rambaud took the lead on reassembling the street clock with Roy Bryant manning the electrical box. Gordon and Albert were strapped in with safety harnesses standing on the scaffolding for a good period of time. With numerous adjustments (and more to come) and testing, the clock was up and running. Committee chair Andy Staton was there to help with tools and making sure dials were straight.

At the bank, Kevin Killian, Ken Arnold, Marcus Bush and Desmond Rolf had the gut-wrenching task of removing the 200lb concrete weight followed by the E. Howard tower clock movement. Once apart Kevin took on the job of cleaning the movement and Desmond is designing a self-wind mechanism (at the request of Frost Bank). Hopefully all will be completed and back in place by the end of February.



Christmas Party

Nearly 50 members and friends came to celebrate the holidays on December 11th at Grace Community church. Turkey, ham and meatballs were provided by the chapter while the rest of the GLORIOUS buffet was brought by all the attendees – sides, appetizers and DESSERTS, lots of desserts! Babette and Jeff Zuspan organized the party and with lots of help the church was decorated and made festive. Since this year’s party was not held at someone’s home, we decided to do a Show-N-Tell which provided very interesting horological items. John Hubby brought small modern Anniversary clocks, Kerry Despaux showed off an A&M clock that was made for him in Douala Cameroon, Africa while working there. The clock was carved from Ebony, Wenge and a variety of other exotic woods. Gary Briggs had a holiday story to recite. Jeff Zuspan brought an 1880s Windmill clock, Jim Dubois presented two shelf clocks he restored, and others brought interesting items including Steve Egloff who brought a small pointer with a tiny hand on the end. He challenged us to guess what it was....it was used for reading the Torah and it’s call a Yad.

After all that, then the fun began. WHITE ELEPHANT! Lots of laughs and stolen gifts!
All in all, the Holiday party was a great success.



Show-N-Tell with John Hubby, Kerry Despaux, Gary Briggs, Jim DuBois and Steve Egloff's "What's It?"



Gifts!



Food and Friends!!

Announcements

- Chapter 139 is looking for volunteers to present ANY topic at meetings. Contact Jeff Zuspan 713-443-9752 or jjzuspan61@sbcglobal.net
- Chapter Basic Kitchen Clock Servicing Class instructed by Ken Arnold and held at Turnkey Coatings location. Date and time to be announced.
- There is always a need for volunteers at Regionals. Please think about volunteering to support the Lone Star Regional in March.

Upcoming events

➤ January 8 th	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session, Show and Tell, and watch repair presentation Location: Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055
➤ February 12 th	8 a.m. – noon	One-Day Show, Tech Session and Darrah Artzner presentation on “Flaming Timepieces” Location: Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055
➤ March 3 rd – 5 th	See registration form in the Mart	Lone Star Regional Mesquite, TX
➤ March 12 th	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session, Show & Tell Location: TBD

San Jacinto Chapter 139 – Renewal/Membership application

If you are a member of NAWCC and would like to join with other collectors and your friends as a member of San Jacinto Chapter #139, please complete the form below and return along with \$10.00 dues to Avin Brownlee, Chapter 139 Treasurer, 426 Overlook Dr., Friendswood TX 77546-5571. Please make checks payable to San Jacinto Chapter 139. A spouse/significant other who is also an NAWCC member can join for an additional \$5.00 per year. If registering your spouse/significant other, please include their full name as well.

Membership is concurrent with the calendar year, and renewals are due each January.

Name: _____

Spouse/significant other name (if also registering): _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address*: _____

Phone Number: _____ NAWCC membership number: _____

New membership / Renewal (Please circle appropriate choice) Number of Years? _____

*To reduce time and expenses, all newsletters and Chapter 139 correspondence will be distributed electronically to members with email addresses.