



San Jacinto Star

President's message

First, Happy New Year and thanks to Chapter 139 members who participated in, and contributed to, the numerous Chapter activities during 2015. I am hopeful that we can build on the good things we did and add a few new things in 2016.

One order of business that we need to take care of is getting our membership roster in order. We have been carrying a few people on the roster who have not paid dues in a while and if they want to continue as members of the Chapter they'll need to pay 2016 dues. If you haven't paid your \$10 dues, please do so by March 2016.

Thanks to the many people who make presentations and participate in show-and-tell at our monthly Tech Sessions and our One Day Shows. There's some good stuff being shared and if you haven't come to a meeting lately, you're missing out. The fun continues each month, so please come to a meeting. We're getting a little crowded at the meetings, but we always have room for more.

Another thank you to Marcus Bush for leading the tower clock restoration effort, and to those participating. Several people working on that clock have expended many hours. We've learned a lot and made the owner, Jonathan Grenader, very happy. That clock was a big hit at the Christmas party for those who braved the many flights of stairs to get to the top. I was quite surprised at the number of people who went up, and even more surprised at the amount of time people spent at the top looking at the clock. Some may have been taking time to catch their breath. It really is pretty cool and I know there was much genuine interest in that Seth Thomas No. 15 clock. The owner is getting a plaque made for display to recognize our group's restoration work. The clock tower is one of Houston's oldest buildings, constructed in 1894, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. That's pretty cool for our Chapter to now be formally recognized, even in a small way, with part of the Nation's history and with Houston's history.

And, since I am on a roll thanking people for their efforts, I appreciate the work of all our officers and directors. Shaun, Avin and Nita, thanks for all the work as officers. In addition, we need to recognize four people in particular. Tim Glanzman's continued support of the group in several ways is greatly appreciated. Having a place to meet is a critical need for any organization, but Tim also lets us store a lot of items at his business. That's really a blessing. Avin Brownlee's term as treasurer is ending. What a great job Avin has done and he has my sincere thanks. Next is Pat Holloway who keeps me in line with this newsletter. I think a person could look in the dictionary and see Pat's photo next to the word "organized." Then, lastly, Darrah Artzner needs thanks from all of us. Darrah keeps our webpage in order and that's an almost continuous process. Darrah handles our e-mail notifications. Darrah gives presentations at Tech Sessions and at One Day Shows. Darrah led registration at our Regional in August and was so busy that he could only spend a few minutes in the Mart area. I could go on and on... thank you Darrah.



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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Now I'll switch to one last topic. We have a plan in place to do clock restorations at the tech sessions for two purposes. The first purpose is that we can use the restoration as a teaching tool. This includes both case and movement work. And the second purpose, for those clocks donated to the Chapter, we will include them in the Chapter's silent auction. Don't miss the opportunity to pick up new skills and to contribute to the Chapter's financial welfare. If you have a clock of your own needing restoration, bring it in and get help from others. We also have some donated movements needing repair either as a learning opportunity or just for the silent auction. Come and learn. Come and contribute.

Sincerely,
Drew

Educational events

Thanks to everyone who supports the Chapter's many educational offerings with your attendance and willingness to share. Thanks, also, to Darrah Artzner who keeps the Chapter website updated and posts many more pictures and descriptions of the events.

October Tech Session

The monthly Show and Tell was very quiet until Ben Fulbright demonstrated how to wrap a cord or hose perfectly every time. You have to see the pictures to appreciate this – or, better yet, ask Ben to demonstrate it for you.

Much time was spent on watch repairs this session. Prior to the session, member Bill Hardy had contacted Shaun Clarke and Darrah Artzner about assisting him with some work on his 16-size Elgin (grade 313 15 jewels). Bill communicated with Shaun and Darrah for a few reasons: Bill has the skill but just needed some guidance; he had parts to repair the watch in question; and finally it provided an idea of what tools would be needed to take to the session.



During the session Shaun showed Bill how to remove the hairspring, roller table and damaged balance staff. Shaun used a staking set and staff removal tool for the staff removal. Once that was accomplished, Darrah showed Bill how to install the new staff, roller table and hairspring. A few tips were given here and there. Bill continued to work on the watch at his home to finish up and a few emails bounced back and forth. It seems he's got it! Isn't that what the tech sessions are all about?



December Tech Session

What a cheerful group we had this month. Must be the cool weather and the holiday magic that emphasized the normal gaiety of those present. Several members brought in clocks or watches with questions while others had show & tell items to share. A kitchen clock with an alarm problem was assessed. Darrah Artzner started breaking down an American Waltham pocket watch to demonstrate the disassembly process for the owner, and any others, who wanted to learn the process. Once cleaned it will be reassembled at the next session.





Drew Lundgren (Pres) showed everyone a plaque for the Heights Tower clock that he will present to the building owner at the Chapter Christmas party. Each member who assisted



in the project will be asked to sign the back of the plaque.

Joe Mixon gave his thoughts on the Great Southern Regional and showed everyone his souvenir clock table decoration that was given to him during the event. The clocks made by local Chapter members had pictures of historic Louisiana sites on the dials.

2015 Ward Francillon Time Symposium

Chapter 139 hosted the 2015 Ward Francillon Time Symposium that was held October 22-24 at the Houston Westchase Marriott. In addition to onsite speakers, attendees and gracious hosts braved the torrential rains of Tropical Storm Patricia on Saturday, to enjoy tours of two private collections. Darrah Artzner provided onsite audio-visual support, and several members attended this fun and educational event. Following are some thoughts from Darrah and from Edward McDowell who attended the Symposium.

Thoughts About The Time Symposium By A Staff Member

by Darrah Artzner

NAWCC Chapter 139 hosted a very successful WARD FRANCILLON TIME SYMPOSIUM on October 22-24, 2015. Sandy Cranfill of Chapter 43, Louisiana, who is an avid fan of musical time pieces and related items, chaired the session and was supported by Chapter 139 members that included Drew Lundgren (preliminary support), Darrah Artzner (A/V), Patricia Holloway (registration) and Marcus Bush (hotel and bus arrangements). The Chapter provided (purchased) audio/video equipment and member Marcus Bush graciously offset all charges related to the tour bus rental. One presenter, Dave Weisbart, graciously loaned his speakers for others to use for the duration. Hotel accommodations, meeting room and staff were excellent.

This was a new experience for me in the audio-visual arena since most clock and watch presentations I have supported have been primarily slide shows and did not include video that incorporated music on various media and platforms (hardware). I might add that after the first presentation everything ran smoothly with only minor occasional problems that one would expect when dealing with speakers.

Sixty plus attendees made for a relatively filled room. For me, primarily a watch collector, I was not expecting too much excitement but really became impressed once the event began. It was truly an amazing experience being exposed to such fine examples of musical history. I was impressed by the greater numbers of clocks that were shown in relation to (musical) 'boxes'. Presenters were superb and many described and showed detailed descriptions of the inner workings of these musical charmers and how the time trains (gearing) meshed with their musical components. It told a story of clockmaker and music aficionado ingenuity and was truly fascinating to learn how they adapted or devised such precision and charming pieces so long ago. They essentially utilized a clocks function in the same or similar fashion as a time train functions with a chime train but with a few twists and turns that require more detail and precision in the mechanics and finishing. I found a similarity in some of the pieces to complex cuckoo clocks but with more refinement. Music boxes and other music only items were also of mechanical interest since I am mechanically oriented.

During the evening banquet Sandy Cranfill gave everyone justifiable praise and then recognized all speakers and working staff mementos of the event. Banquet food was good but not impressive. However, the boxed lunches made available the following day hit the spot.

Given the opportunity, any chapter should volunteer to support a symposium in their local area even though it requires some monetary support and extra effort by Chapter volunteers. Collective pockets of unique knowledge can be found here and the horological benefits for those taking advantage of these symposiums are significant. This particular symposium brought together time pieces and music and did it quite well. The gathering of sharing collectors and dissemination of their knowledge and talent to the audience was truly amazing.

More Thoughts About The Time Symposium From The Audience

by Edward McDowell

It is impossible to succinctly recap all that happened over the 2½ days of the Ward Francillon Time Symposium held in Houston 22-24 October 2015. For the novice (this would be me) it was an overwhelming two days.

Just restating the topics covered and the show and tell of items shown would take a full program. Music boxes and musical clocks, record players in all their earliest variety, including self-loading and playing machines were on display. Records seem too modern? “Robots”—automations—played violins, pianos & horns and more: a full automated orchestra hidden in a neighborhood garage. There were bird boxes, whistlers and Black Forest clocks! There was instruction on the history and valuation of these marvels and information on construction and restoration. Truly the symposium was as complex as one of its clock driven automatons.

Politely enthusiastic the audience was geographically diverse and included novices to the knowledgeable. Bon homie flowed like honeyed wine. Only a few fibs were told, great tales spun and new adventures planned. It really was a grand time.

Our time started with a brief history of clockwork mechanisms applied to things other than clocks. In ages before television it is not surprising that music was the preeminent past time and efforts to bring it to the masses remuneratively rewarded. This was especially well demonstrated in the talk on early sound recording devices, something easily forgotten in this time of the ubiquitous mp3 player. We learned about the earliest roots of music recording—before the celebrated LP record or even the talking cylinders of Edison. Who knew there was so much variety and complexity to automated music making? Competition played an even larger role than one suspected. Patents were wielded as weapons in the intense fight for market share. That spawned innovation in competitors and (eventually) the phonograph wheel turned. Of course, before recording devices there were music playing automata. From “simple” player pianos to a fully automated orchestra, these, to me, were the highlight of the show. Music playing automata came in all sorts of varieties. One of the most impressive was a machine playing three violins in addition to horns and harp.

Attendees also received an extensive education on what I would previously have called “traditional” music boxes. Combs, bells and bellows powered whistles gave depth to the music these boxes produced. Interchangeable cylinders foretold paper punch cards and even computers. The variety was astounding. And we have yet to touch on the bird boxes, whistlers and Black Forest clocks! Truly an embarrassment of riches. There was something for everyone. Plan on attending next year, I know I am!

Editor’s note: Edward mentioned next year’s Symposium. The 2016 Symposium: Clocks of Winterthur will be held October 6-8 at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, DE. This site is only about an hour and a half from NAWCC headquarters in Columbia, PA, so what a great opportunity to attend the Symposium AND visit the NAWCC Museum, Library and headquarters. There are also many other interesting and historic places to visit in the area – not to mention wonderful antiques shopping. Learn more at the 2016 Symposium website:

<http://www.clocksatwinterthur.com/>

November One-Day

This show was not as crowded as most but there were still plenty of members wanting to sell and buy. One table was clearing out everything that had once been owned by a past faithful member. Gordon Shahin gave a

program and demonstration on how to make a glass clock case. Ken Arnold gave a very impressive talk on restoring a “swinger” style statue clock. Both presentations were well worth being part of the audience.



What kind of treasures were in those boxes?



Gordon Shahin's glass clock case presentation



Ken Arnold's presentation on restoration of a swinger clock

Houston Maker-Faire

As an outreach to the community, Chapter 139 volunteers participated in the 2015 Maker-Faire held November 14th at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The project name was “It’s About Time” with the following description, “Have you ever wondered what is behind the dial of an old wind-up clock? Or if you’ve seen a clock movement, did it look like a jumble of gears and axles that made little sense? NAWCC members would love to introduce you to the world of horology -- the study of clocks. Horology combines machining, mechanics, art and history. See how pendulums regulate clocks and how a clock strikes the hours. NAWCC has opportunities to learn about these mechanical marvels, and how to maintain and repair them.” The display included a couple of clocks, two test stands with clock movements running (including a selection of pendulums so people can see how length and bob weight affect the rate), and a time only movement so that people can assemble and disassemble it. Copies of the Bulletin and NAWCC brochures were also available for anyone who was interested.

Following are excerpts from feedback provided after the event: “I had a blast at the Maker Faire on Saturday. Special thanks to Drew for setting it up and for Drew, Marcus, and Shaun making it a fun group effort....I thought the booth was very well done and that we presented ourselves well. This was a successful endeavor in that many more people know we exist than did before.

The woodworks movement, the tape measure clock (at least that is what I’ve always called them), and the time and strike mantle clock movement all generated interest and gave us something to show that was moving. It was especially helpful to demonstrate the count wheel strike of the mantle clock movement and explain how it worked. It gave visitors a sense of accomplishment when they understood and figured out how the clock kept track of the hours to strike.

The assortment of movements and types of clocks was great. Drew had his statue from the statue repair class (an example from the class plus the cool looking statue is a two-fer) and had his jewelers lathe on display (shiny cool tools are a nice attraction for people including me).

Big plus to have someone with watch expertise and to have the watch and tool display in the cabinet. Several people had watches on their wrist that were special to them for a variety of reasons. And, again, there are many people out there who appreciate cool tools. Thanks Shaun for sharing.”

This type of program is a wonderful way to help others learn about the NAWCC and Chapter 139. If you are aware of any similar outreach opportunities, or would be interested in participating in Maker-Faire, or other similar, events in 2016, please contact any of the Chapter officers. Help us get the word out about all the wonderful things the Chapter is doing!



View of the booth



Volunteers Marcus Bush, Tim Glanzman, Drew Lundgren, Shaun Clarke.



View of the booth

2015 Holiday Party and Tower Clock Tour

The location of this year’s Christmas party was different as it was held at the Heights Tower clock building rather than the home of a Chapter member. This provided members a chance to view the recently renovated tower clock. Drew Lundgren (Pres) and company did a splendid job of scheduling catering and tables. Members brought desserts and White Elephant exchange gifts. Drew presented a plaque (shown in the December Tech Session article above) for the clock to the owner of the building just prior to the exchange. However, he took it back stating that all clock repairers would be signing the back before it could be fixed to the clock. It appears that everyone had a great time. Be sure to check out the Chapter website for additional pictures of the celebration.



Drew Lundgren addressing the crowd



Some of the happy attendees



Everyone seemed to have a great time!



Another beautiful cake by Katrina Clarke that was auctioned, then presented by the winners to the tower clock owner.



Hmmm, wonder what white elephant Liz received???



Tim, is that a box, in a box, In a box, in a.....?

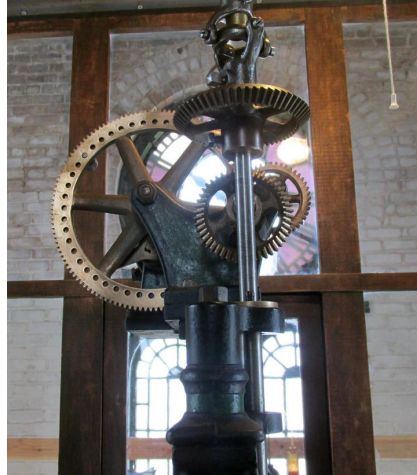
Tower Clock Project

Several Chapter members participated in the restoration of the Seth Thomas four-dial tower clock, and the 2015 Holiday Party seemed a perfect time to show off the finished project. The clock tower is part of a 60,000-square foot privately owned structure in the Heights (corner of Lawrence and 22nd street) that is being restored to former glory. The building will house nine office areas and multistory apartment space. It was originally constructed in phases between 1893 and 1900. The Seth Thomas clock is dated to 1915 and apparently was installed several years after completion of the building. It was added to the National Register in the 1980s. Until the restoration, the clock had last chimed 5 years ago and had not been serviced since the late 1980s.

Be sure to see more pictures on the Chapter website!



Assembled clock



Gearing for the dials



One of the dials and the time side weight

Upcoming events

➤	January 9	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session <i>Great Chapter 139 Collet Swap</i> Programs: <i>Filling a hole in a clock plate – Val Link</i> <i>Dial Resilvering – Ken Arnold and Drew Lundgren</i>
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➤	January 24	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar – Register at NAWCC.org <i>A Review of English Skeleton Clocks</i> Bob Schmitt
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➤	February 6	8 a.m.	Chapter 139 One Day Show Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055 Program: <i>Timepieces of Famous Historical People – Shaun Clarke</i>
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➤	February 13	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session Program and hands-on: <i>Replacing a Pocket Watch Mainspring – Shaun Clarke</i>
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➤	February 21	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar – Register at NAWCC.org <i>Horology in Art</i> Bob Frishman

Upcoming events - continued

➤ March 4-5	Times vary by day	Lone Star Regional – Mesquite, TX
➤ March 12	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session
➤ March 20	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar – Register at NAWCC.org <i>Rockford Watches</i> Darrah Artzner
➤ April 9	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session

*Location: All Tech Sessions and classes are held at Turn-Key Coatings, 8411 Rannie Road, Houston, Texas 77080 (just off of Hempstead Highway / near Bingle). Fellow member and company owner, Tim Glanzman, donates the space

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 Drive, Friendswood TX 77546. 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.

It’s never too early!

Plans are already underway for the 2016 All Texas Chapters Regional!

Donations are being accepted for the Chapter sponsored silent auction.

Please contact any Chapter officer or director to donate items or attend an upcoming

Tech Session to learn what you can do to help restore some of the donated items.

All help is welcome!