



San Jacinto Star

President's message

It's that time of the year when most people look back at the past year, reflecting on the highs and lows, the accomplishments and failures, etc. I'm not going to do that beyond simply saying that as a Chapter we had a great year and I personally thank those who made it so. You did good.

Let's look forward to 2017. Near the end of 2016 we placed an emphasis on our educational outreach. We had a couple of classes and planned some for 2017. In fact, the spring barrel clock class is the first full weekend in January, and the class for building your own clock is continuing. A class for full plate pocket watch work is also planned. This is exciting because so many of our members have interest in the hands on aspect of watches and clocks. It's what attracts and retains some of our membership. Another thing that we decided in 2016 that'll get done in 2017 is the acquisition of more tools and supplies for use in classes and Tech Sessions. I'm personally looking forward to seeing us being able to do more repairs and some fabrication in our Tech Sessions. If you haven't noticed, fabrication sort of "floats my boat." Some of the tools have already been purchased. We now have a nice watchmaker's bench set up along with a high-tech electronic watch timer.

With the general membership meeting coming up on February 6, we'll elect three new officers. This is chance to introduce new ideas and new styles that build on the good stuff we've already done. If you have an interest in running for one of the offices, please speak up to get on the ballot. We especially need candidates for the president and vice-president roles. You're not alone when you take an office; those who precede you will provide great continuous support. I went into this position a couple of years ago with a lot of trepidation. My worries were not justified. My promise to you is that, unless you choose to ignore the responsibilities of the position, you won't fail. There's too much help around you for that to happen.

We're setup for success in 2017. As a group we shape how we'll look back at 2017 as it draws to a close, just as we can do now with 2016. Let's make it great.

All the best to you and yours in the New Year.
Drew Lundgren



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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Be sure to see the many pictures posted on the Chapter website.

October Tech Session

The October Tech Session was a mix of Show & Tell and repair. A Grandfather movement was brought in for a bent center arbor repair, and Drew Lundgren ended up explaining how a quarter hour/tubular chime movement operates the chiming mechanism. What was also interesting was the stand that was used for holding the movement as seen in the photo to the right.



Bill Hardy showed the group the results of a computer program he has been working with for rendering drawings. Shaun Clarke reminded everyone that the pocket watch servicing class was full and that it is right on schedule for the end of the month. He also mentioned that anyone wanting to donate tools to the Chapter can go the Chapter web site and review tools that are needed for various stages of experience for both clocks and watches. These lists are good references when shopping at out of town regionals too since they can be viewed on line. Shaun replaced a gasket on Dennis Carroll's Gruen wrist watch as the one installed appeared to be in pieces during a recent battery replacement. Desmond Rolf (pictured to the left) brought in glass plates that were ornamented with reverse decals and talked about the process which can be done via an ink jet printer and copier.



Ben Fulbright showed a five-foot clock dial with hands and stated that these were parts of a two-faced electric clock that he is donating to the Chapter for placement at the top of Tim's building. One of the two dials will have to be made due to a crack but that should do it. Well, maybe not. No one had thought out the need for installing water proof power to the site, possible licensing from the city, and getting it up on the building. Piece of cake, right? RIGHT! (Information provided by Darrah Artzner)

Introduction to Woodworks Movement Workshop – October 15th and 22nd

John Hardy conducted two one-day workshops on Introduction to Woodworks Movements on October 15th and 22nd for members interested in wood works but who had little or no experience working with them. This was an introductory class for members who had an interest in wood works movements; experience in disassembly and reassembly of brass clock movements; and familiarity with count wheel striking which has been covered in the various Kitchen Clock Movement Classes. During the day, the attendees had the opportunity to disassemble a woodworks movement, clean, treat, replace broken teeth, repair bushings as needed as well as other topics that came up as the movements were assessed and repaired.

Below are some pictures of woodworks movements from the class. Many thanks to John for sharing his knowledge and for opening his shop to attendees of these two sessions!



October Pocket Watch Servicing Class

On the weekend of 29-30 October, the second "Basic Pocket Watch Servicing" class was held with a full class of six students (Stanley Pryor, Drew Lundgren, Frank Thayer, Gregory Graham, Wayne Denham and Joe Mixon) in attendance. After coffee and kolaches, the class commenced with a short video explaining pocket watch operation followed by an exercise in grade and model identification. The students were then led through proper care and sharpening of screwdrivers and tweezers before testing their skills on a dexterity exercise. The class quickly moved on to removal of the movement from the case followed by commencement of the disassembly process.



There was only one minor casualty during disassembly (loss of a minute wheel) and despite best efforts to locate the errant part on the floor, it was unable to be found. Fortunately, a spare was readily available and work could proceed uninhibited. Once disassembly was complete, the class moved on to a component identification exercise and inspection of the components for wear and damage. The instructors then lead a brief discussion on cleaning processes and cleanliness during reassembly. The first day concluded with a practical exercise of mainspring removal, inspection/lubrications and reassembly.

Starting bright and early on the second day, the students were eager to continue with the reassembly. Check processes during reassembly identified a few (normal) issues which were scrutinized and fixed. Lubrication was completed and balances reinstalled, with all students successfully ending up with a running watch. Basic regulation on a timing machine was completed before the movements were re-cased and the hands installed.

(information provided by Shaun Clarke)

******NOTE: In case you have not been able to attend either of the previous sessions, the third Pocket Watch Servicing Class is planned for March 11-12, 2017. Please contact Shaun Clarke or Darrah Artzner to register.******

November One-Day and Tech Session

NAWCC Chapter 139 held one of its three one day shows on November 5th at the Grace Community Church. Attendance was quite good with about 50 people attending. This meeting was a combination of the One-Day Show and the November Tech Session. The Tech Session was moved to the first Saturday because of conflict with the 2016 Southern Regional in Metairie, LA (New Orleans). For a variety of reasons, we had fewer people selling at this one Day Show than we usually have. But that may bode well for the February One-Day Show and General Meeting.

Announcements at the show included thanks to Shaun, Darrah and Jeff for a great Pocket Watch class, and to John Hardy for his wood works class. We also announced availability of materials from the upcoming "build you own clock" class. Thanks to Marcus for putting this together. Tim showed us a very nice framed memorial with photos and hands from the Heights tower clocks that several members of the chapter helped repair (pictured right). We announced our plans for the November 12th & 13th Mini Maker Faire at the Gorge R. Brown Convention Center. We're hopeful to attract a few new members.

Shaun Clarke gave us a great informative tour of internet resources produced by Chapter 139. Our website, built and maintained by Darrah, is one of the best among NAWCC Chapters. It is certainly the best I've seen and has a great deal of information and also a great deal of potential for us to reach out and provide even more information. We also have a Facebook group and a YouTube





channel. Shaun spoke a bit about the opportunities these forums give us to further promote horology. The "us" includes each of us.

We announced plans for the annual Christmas party. Edward McDowell and his wife Marni will be hosting. It'll take place on Sunday, December 11th starting at 2 PM. Meat, what they call protein these days, will be provided by the chapter. Bring a covered dish (with food in it please), and if you want to be part of the white elephant gift exchange, please bring a suitable gift (<\$25). These get-togethers are always fun.

And finally, there was some discussion about upcoming elections. The President, Vice-President and Secretary positions all need candidates in 2017. The elections will take place at the 2017 General Meeting in February. We grow with new ideas and new ways of doing things, so if you're able, please share your unique gifts by running for one of these positions. Following the prepared discussions and

the presentation, we had a lot of activity around the room as people were working to resolve clock and watch issues, and others were generally solving the world's problems. (Information provided by Drew Lundgren)

Mini-Maker Faire

For the second year, Chapter 139 was well represented at the Houston Mini Maker Faire. This annual event brings together a community of tech enthusiasts, craftspeople, educators, hobbyists and commercial exhibitors to share their passion for hands-on development and construction. The Maker Faire movement goes from strength-to-strength, with this year's event including more exhibitors and plenty of support from the general public.

This year's event was held over the weekend of 12-13 November at the George R. Brown Convention Center with Tim Glanzman, Geoff Parker, Shaun Clarke and Drew Lundgren setting up and manning the "It's About Time - NAWCC" Chapter 139 booth.

The clock and watch displays attracted an encoring number of visitors over the two days. There was plenty of interest in Marcus Bush's skeleton clock project and admiration for the level of skill shown in its construction. Our thanks to all the Chapter 139 members who supported the Makers Faire and visited our booth.

Tim, Geoff, Shaun and Drew had the chance to speak with many of the guests about the NAWCC and Chapter 139, and had over 50 individuals signed up to our mailing list. Many of the visitors wanted to find our more information about a family heirloom, and several others indicated they would be interested in attending beginner clock and watchmaking classes.

Tim extended his interest into the virtual reality realm, and tempted the other participants to experience this cutting edge technology. The implications of this new technology will be of interest as it develops.

It was particularly encouraging to see a great turnout of younger folks at the Mini Maker Faire and hopefully we can encourage some of these students to check out the NAWCC and attend our local chapter offerings. (Information and pictures provided by Shaun Clarke)



Drew and Tim prepared for action



Drew speaking with visitors



Bird's-eye view of the Chapter booth

December Tech Session

President Drew Lundgren opened the session by thanking Edward McDowell and his wife for hosting this year's Xmas gathering as it was truly appreciated by all attendees.



There were several new faces at this session as a result of their finding out about us through the Mini Maker Faire and Chapter web site. They all had clocks that needed identification or had problems that could not be resolved. Drew Lundgren, below, showed members how to drill a centered hole into a steel rod (arbor) using a 6 jawed chuck and Shaun Clarke gave all clock lovers a chance to identify a chuck that most had never seen before since it is used for working with watch crowns. Geoffrey Parker brought in his recently serviced 400-day clock and was especially proud of it since his main bag is wrist watches and getting 400-day clocks to run is quite different than a watch movement.

Shaun Clarke and Darrah Artzner responded to a couple of requests for assessing watch collections since the last Tech Session. One was the son of a former NAWCC member who had passed away and the other was a non-member with a similar situation. They had no idea of what to do so sought us out for advice by searching the NAWCC and Chapter web sites. We gave them pointers on how to identify watches, provided them with references, general values, and suggestions on ways to dispose of their watches. Both parties appreciated the advice they received and we wish them the very best on dissolving their recently acquired collections. Chapter 139 members have always made themselves available to all local residents, and in particular Chapter members, in situations such as these at no expense since we consider it a service to the community. The only down side for those of us that are assessors is that at no time do we attempt the purchase any item since we are the ones laying ground work for their values.

2016 Holiday Party

Many thanks to Edward McDowell, and his wife Marni, for hosting a very enjoyable 2016 holiday party. Although several of our regulars were not able to make it, there were almost 40 members and guests in attendance. As always, there was an abundance of delicious food and fellowship to go along with the ever-popular Santa Bandit format gift exchange.



It seems that Gary Briggs had the most opportunities to select gifts, beginning with a desirable wall-sized pocket watch clock. We wonder how he is always able to select so many gifts that someone else wants? To add to the fun, another of his selections was a



package, within a package, within a package...you get the idea. And this year, his wife Nancy was the first to select a bottle of spirits that could provide a little respite when it's time to "step away from the clock!" Needless to say, this one was also traded the maximum number of times.

If you would be interested in hosting the 2017 holiday party, please mention it to one of the officers. And, if you've never attended one of the parties, be sure to watch for announcements and save the date this year!

Upcoming events

➤ January 14	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session
➤ January 22	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar How It’s Made – The Vortic Pocket Watch Conversion Register at NAWCC.org
➤ February 4	8 a.m.	Chapter 139 One Day Show Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055
➤ February 11	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session
➤ February 12	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar – Renaissance man: The extraordinary life and times of Benjamin Baneker Register at NAWCC.org
➤ March 11	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session
➤ March 11-12 (tentative)	8 a.m.	Pocket watch servicing workshop Contact Shaun Clarke to register (spclarke68@gmail.com)
➤ March 19	6 – 7 p.m.	NAWCC Webinar – Hidden History: Clock and Watch Records in the Riggs Archive Register at NAWCC.org
➤ June tentative	8 a.m.	Pocket watch full plate workshop Contact Shaun Clarke to register (spclarke68@gmail.com)
➤ June 28-July 1	Times vary by day	2017 NAWCC National Convention Arlington Convention Center; Arlington TX http://net.nawcc.org/2017National/Home.aspx

*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 Dr. Geoffrey Parker, Chapter 139 Treasurer, 11152 Westheimer Rd. #410, Houston TX 77042-3208. 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.