

# The Mainspring

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

August 2005

## Report from the President

*Submitted by Jeff Beehler*

Hello members. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying life. We are in the midst of trying to set up some workshops in San Antonio and would like your input as to what type of classes you would be interested in attending. There are many courses offered such as Dial Painting, Case Refinishing, Clock Repair, Watch Repair and Reverse Glass Painting just to mention a few. If you are interested in these or other classes please let one of the Chapter Officers know so we can get a feel for a class size. We are also talking about perhaps having a monthly get-together to help make this a more active chapter and perhaps entice new members to join. These could be in different member's homes or perhaps a coffee shop. These would also be for husbands and wives if they wish to attend. Let us know if you are interested in this also.☺



## Membership Summary

*Submitted by the Chapter Secretary*

I thought you might find the following details of our membership interesting:

- ✓ Number of members reporting an e-mail address.....149
- ✓ Number of members receiving our newsletter by e-mail (and thus saving the chapter all the printing and mailing charges).....18
- ✓ Number of times both a husband and wife are chapter members..... 6
- ✓ Members in Dallas/ FtWorth area (75xxx - 76xxx).....55
- ✓ Members in Houston area(77xxx).....56
- ✓ Members in San Antonio/ Austin area (78xxx).....86
- ✓ Members in all other areas.....19

Total Chapter 15 membership as of 8/1/05 .....215



**Chapter 15's New website**

**Check it all out at:**

<http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org>

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## Upcoming Shows and Events

(watch our website for more details)

● August 26 - 28

*Houston Regional, hosted by Chapter 139*

● September 17th

*One Day Show in Wharton, details on page 3.*

*Hosted by Chapter 15*

● October 15

*One day shows in Dallas hosted by Chapter 124  
see <http://www.chapter124.com> for details*

● November 12<sup>th</sup>

*One Day Show in Austin, details to follow*

*Hosted by Chapter 15* ☺

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## Watchmaker's Tips

by Bruce Graham

I have never felt comfortable using those hand-held balance truing calipers, so whenever I need to check or straighten a balance, I remove the hairspring and

chuck the balance in the jewelers lathe. (Please note that I never run the lathe at speed, I only use my hand to rotate the spindle.) I use a tool steady and a 10X loupe to test for run-out the same way you would test a bicycle rim, gently applying pressure with tweezers where

necessary. If I have a balance wheel that has been badly bent, I will try to get the rim concentric first, then remove any up/down play. Its worth the extra effort to get a balance wheel just right because any slight imperfection is *very* noticeable while the watch is running.☺



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## Classified Ads

CLOCK GEARS, BARRELS, PINIONS  
ARBORS AND ESCAPE WHEELS  
All made to order from your sample

### H.O. GEAR SERVICE

"I do what it takes"

H.O. Gear Service      For UPS Delivery  
P.O. Box 103            185 Pin Oak Drive  
Malakoff, TX 75148      Mabank, TX 75156  
(903) 451-3036      Howard C. Vaughn Sr.  
Member NAWCC Since 1974

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## Upcoming Wharton One-Day Show Reminder

The next Chapter 15 sponsored one-day show will be in Wharton Texas on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church at 1717 Pioneer Street.

Contact Shirley Secor at (979) 532-3363 or [hsecor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hsecor@sbcglobal.net) for more information or refer to prior issues of this newsletter, or go to our website <http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org> .☺

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## Chapter 139 Houston Suitcase classes

submitted by Don Leason, Chapter 139

San Jacinto Chapter 139 has been holding NAWCC classes in Houston. The next class is Fundamentals in Clock Repair and scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 11<sup>th</sup>. The class will be held in Carl Schmiegs repair shop. Cost is \$275, a few openings are left. Contact Don Leason at [nod5391@hal-pc.org](mailto:nod5391@hal-pc.org) to reserves your space and for more information

Projected classes for 2006 include:  
Lathe Skills, February; Introduction to Chime Clocks, April; Basic Pocket Watch Repair, June; and, Advanced Lathe Skills, September .☺

## Provenance Matters

by Terry Brotherton

The history of ownership of a clock or watch can be extremely important to a future buyer of your clocks or watches, whether you or your estate is selling the items. The previous owner or owners, the date you purchased the item and its cost are important things to know when it's time to sell. Also include any exhibits your timepiece has been in and any articles or books it might be mentioned in. A history of repairs and restorations and who performed those repairs or restorations can also be vital information. For watches, a simple filing system alphabetized by maker and subdivided by model can suffice. For clocks, it's even easier. An index card with the vital information tucked inside the door is just as effective as a filing system. I even know of many collectors who put the business card of a potential buyer inside the door of a clock.



Rare or common, expensive or inexpensive, the history of ownership of your clock or watch is simple to maintain and can pay off for you in the long run, or can make life much simpler for your heirs.☺

## Chapter 15 Membership Application

New Application / Renewal (circle one)

Membership dues are \$10 per year. Dues are payable by December 31 each year. If joining initially after July 1<sup>st</sup> dues are \$5 for first year. **You must be a current and paid member of NAWCC to join a chapter.** You may belong to more than one chapter at a time.

### Please print or type

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Horological Interests \_\_\_\_\_

NAWCC Member# \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CHAPTER 15, NAWCC

Enclose with remittance and send to:

Jerry Brazil

26766 Fawn Mountain Road

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

(210) 698-6665 [eggman@beecreek.net](mailto:eggman@beecreek.net)

*1525...the year the fusee was invented by Jacob the Czech of Prague. It wasn't until 40 years later in 1565 that fusee chain was first used in England taking the place of cat-gut cord.*

### Your Current Chapter 15 Officers and Directors:

#### President: Jeff Beehler

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(210)659-3205

e-mail: [lajetx@satx.rr.com](mailto:lajetx@satx.rr.com)

#### Vice President and Webmaster:

##### Ted Orban

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#### Secretary/Editor: Jerry Brazil

26766 Fawn Mountain Rd, Fair Oaks Ranch,

TX 78015 (210) 698-6665

e-mail: [eggman@beecreek.net](mailto:eggman@beecreek.net)

#### Director: Jerry Harlin

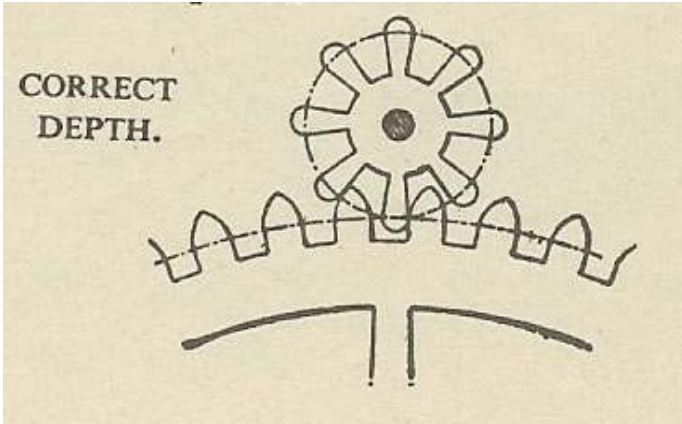
705 E. Gentry, Hamilton, TX 76531

(254)386-4728

e-mail: [ejharlin@earthlink.net](mailto:ejharlin@earthlink.net)

## Interesting clock facts

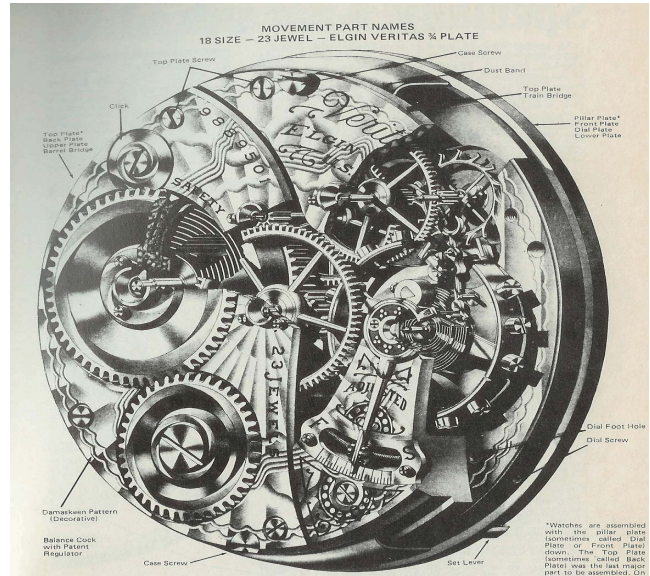
**Depth.** The degree of intersection between a pair of gears. The depth is said to be correct when the pitch circles of both gears meet.



...Donald De Carle, *Watch and Clock Encyclopedia*,  
*Bonanza Books*, page 113

**Southwestern Chapter 15**  
**26766 Fawn Mountain Road**  
**Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015**

- ## Inside this month
- ✓ Membership summary facts
  - ✓ Suitcase classes
  - ✓ Importance of Provenance



Elgin 18 size, 23 jewel, Veritas Movement