



The MAIN SPRING

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

Reverse glass workshop a success

Who would have thought that spending two days in an “art class” could be so much fun and produce so much laughter? The six students in Chapter 15’s May workshop, discovered just how much fun it could be.

In addition to the hands-on experience of using transfers to create reverse glass paintings, we learned more about the history of decorative arts and clock making. Phil Gregory, our instructor, concluded the first day with a trip around the museum talking about the tablets, stenciling, history and innovations found on various clocks.

The second day began with our artistic endeavors utilizing paints and brushes and ended with an activity that took us back to our childhood – finger-painting! Want to hear more about this great class? Just take a few minutes to check out the pictures throughout this edition of the newsletter and talk to any of the students.

What Color is your Parachute?

Nearly a dozen years ago, as my Air Force career was nearing the end, I bought a book for career changers. It was loaded with great information on how to find a job, but also on how to stop and re-evaluate everything about my career. For example, what skills did I have, what could I learn, what did I love to do, what did I do very well? None of these questions could be answered quickly. They took a lot of thought, information, and often, outside input. Likewise, the actual job hunt process was dissected and evaluated for effectiveness: How many people

found jobs through the newspaper, state unemployment office, private employment agencies, internet searches, or through personal connections? Again, each of these techniques was broken down further to show how each could be made to work as well as possible. One of the techniques was found to be far more effective than all of the others, but surprisingly, the book did not recommend focusing all efforts on that one technique. Instead, they followed up with one more evaluation that showed that people who used ALL techniques were FAR more effective in their job search than people who used only one or two. Likewise, people who pursued a career path that they loved and were skilled at found jobs easier and made more money than people who pursued career paths that merely promised greater average pay (i.e. higher demand).

What does all of this have to do with Chapter 15? Plenty, I believe. We seem to be at a crossroads at the moment - deciding on, but not sure of, where we want to go from here. Membership-wise, we are one of the largest NAWCC chapters in the country as well as being one of the most financially stable. But underneath this healthy front, I have reasons to be concerned. Late last year, I took a close look at our membership roster. Nearly 10% of our 150 members had served at one time as a president of the chapter. Several more members were current, upcoming, and/or past members of the NAWCC national board of directors, had served as officers or directors of the chapter, or have taught classes. All of them deserve our heartfelt gratitude for the work that they've done for the rest of us, but they often deservedly feel as

if they have "done their part". We've also added "new blood" in the past several months, and many of them joined the chapter in the hope of learning more about horology and joining in the camaraderie that they may have seen at some NAWCC events. If even some of them remain excited and become involved, then Chapter 15 can remain healthy for another 54 years and beyond. But to accomplish this, Chapter 15 will have to "kick it up a notch".

In the first of what I hope will be several one or two full-day workshops, Chapter 15 offered a great two-day workshop on reverse glass painting (as in pillar and scroll clocks) this past weekend. Two new members and one prospective member were in the class – and they produced a couple of stunning paintings! The topic and timing of the next workshop will depend on instructor and facility availability, and demand, but there appears to be some interest in a beginning lathe workshop (either watchmakers lathe or microlathe), a dial painting workshop, an additional self-winding workshop, and a beginning clock repair workshop. I've also been contacted about the possibility of a tower clock maintenance class, something that may interest current chapter members or help recruit new members. We also plan more short events and these will include time to socialize, similar to the get-together that the Holloways hosted in November (we are open to offers to host an event).

The bottom line is that your chapter officers and directors are putting a lot of effort into learning what skills we have in the chapter, what skills we can learn, what do we love to do, and what can we do well. Likewise, we are looking at how to find the "job" that members really want us to do, and that will require many forms of feedback, including surveys, pleas for input, and paying attention to how members actually respond (i.e. actually teach or take classes, volunteer, or attend events). That means making difficult decisions at times, such as the tentative decision to cancel the 2010 Great

Southwestern Regional. But we will continue to promote chapter activities that attract member participation and sufficient volunteers to conduct them.

As always, feedback requested!

Mike Williams

President, Southwestern Chapter 15

2009 Great Southwestern Regional Wrap-up

| Category | Amount | Increase/ (Decrease) from prior year |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Income | | |
| Registration and Fees | \$6,350.00 | |
| NAWCC (new/renewal) ¹ | 325.00 | |
| Hospitality donations | 269.13 | |
| Raffles | 373.00 | |
| Total income | \$7,317.13 | \$122.10 |
| Expenses | | |
| Advertising | \$990.00 | \$275.00 |
| Refunds | 35.00 | (165.00) |
| Printing ² | 171.36 | 147.50 |
| Insurance ³ | 0.00 | (375.00) |
| Prizes ⁴ | 690.00 | 390.00 |
| Security | 590.00 | 20.00 |
| Hotel | 446.35 | (89.27) |
| Mart/meeting rooms ⁵ | 2,440.00 | 320.00 |
| Hospitality | 335.28 | 101.05 |
| Banquet | 512.40 | (350.62) |
| NAWCC (new/renewal) ¹ | 325.00 | 30.00 |
| Banking fees (including PayPal) | 22.35 | (37.65) |
| Supplies/other ⁶ | 301.64 | 96.20 |
| Total expenses | \$6,859.38 | \$362.25 |
| Net Income | \$457.75 | (\$484.35) |

Notes:

1. Payment for new/renewal NAWCC memberships sent to National.
2. Printing increases due to increased advertising effort and flyers passed out at two regionals and the tri-chapter one-day mart.
3. Extra event insurance not needed – chapter liability policy meets NAWCC requirements for regional
4. Prizes increased in effort to entice more participation and more and longer attendance
5. Mart/Meeting Room increase due to larger room rented for classes, banquet, and hospitality
6. Supplies include replenishment of name tag and raffle ticket supplies, good for two years
7. Combined three-year net for 2007-2009 is \$238.86



Phil Gregory – our knowledgeable (and patient!) instructor



Karen and Bob Rasmussen begin with step one



Mike Williams applying the finishing touches

June meeting reminder

Mark your calendar now for the June meeting. Dick Dorer will present a program on watch collecting. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27th, at the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches in Lockhart. See you there!

Treasurer's report

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Chapter Account: | \$8,510.38 |
| Regional Account: | \$4,563.60 |

Chapter 15 Membership Application
 New Application / Renewal (circle one)
 Membership Dues are \$10
 You must be a current and paid member
 of NAWCC to join a Chapter.

You may be a member of more than one Chapter.

Please Print or Type

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

NAWCC Member # _____

HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC
 Enclose this application and check and send to:

Pat Holloway
 1105 Lafayette Lane
 Pflugerville, TX 78660

Chapter member news

We received the sad news recently that Bob Benson, of Georgetown, passed away last month. Bob had been a Chapter 15 member for many years and despite health issues he was an active participant in our 2009 Great Southwestern Regional.

Save The Date

- National NAWCC Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 10th – 13th
- Chapter 15 monthly program – 10 a.m.
Watch collecting – Dick Dorer
Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches
Lockhart, TX
June 27th
- Chapter 15 monthly program
July 25th
- All Texas Chapters
Houston, Texas
August 28th – 30th
- MKOA Regional
Carthage, Missouri
September 24th – 26th

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Bench Tip

If you have a weight driven clock, but not the weights, to determine the weight needed, use the classic method. Mount the movement on a "horse". Attach one end of a spring "laundry scale" (fish scale or what have you) to the end of the clock's weight cord and the other end to the floor (somehow); wind the cord so the scale registers 20 pounds or more and run the clock until it stops. What the scale now registers is the minimum needed. Add 15-20% to that figure.

Please remember that this is your newsletter – send along any bench tips that you might have, as well as stories on how you became interested in horology, your first clock/watch, historical stories about Chapter 15, etc.