

Our First Experience at an NAWCC National

~ Bob & Karen Rasmussen (Conclusion)

Friday was the first day of the mart. Our first reaction was "Wow!" The lobby was backed up with people waiting for the doors to open. The mart room was huge, larger than any of the regionals we had been to. For Bob there was also some frustration, since he couldn't get everything he wanted as we flew and it would've cost a fortune in shipping!



The mart room

As with most conventions, there were several programs given throughout the day as well. Karen particularly enjoyed the Chapter 120 program about painted dials. Bob attended Phillip Morris' presentation on the Ward Francillon clock collection. Viewing the craft entries was also a highlight and inspiration. NAWCC has many very, very talented people!

Friday night we attended the banquet at Altland House. Awards were given out and there was entertainment by a local singing group and an Amish (well, pretending to be Amish anyway...) comedian/magician. We were surrounded by great company and had a wonderful time!

On Saturday, we did find a clock that we couldn't bear to leave behind...an 1831 Eli Terry & Son carved column and splat with a short-drop, 30-hour wooden movement – all original, even the putty still holding fast after all of these years. It didn't seem right to leave the convention empty-handed, so we had to get something, right?

Of course part of the fun is meeting friends, old and new! Both days of the mart we encountered familiar faces....



George and Sue Ann Kiser

Hugh Lindsey and Pat Holloway



Chapter 15 was well represented. In addition to the members in the pictures, we saw Don Bugh, Terry Palmer, Ken Reindel & family, Robert McGee, Tom and Pat Tarpey, Richard Cox, John Hubby, Hugh and Ruth Overton, Evelyn Slough and Fred Tischler.

Before we knew it, it was Sunday morning and time to leave. We will be going next year and Bob is excited because this time we'll be able to drive and leave with more!!

Restoration Projects: Miniature Ansonias and Waterburys

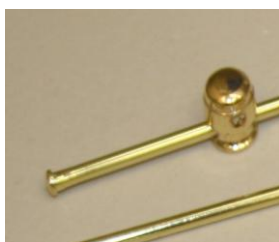
- Ken Reindel (Conclusion)

Restoring a Waterbury Case. The case on a Waterbury Spider is made up of a complicated sandwich of brass rings, collets, plates, and bolts, and a glass sleeve. Some of these components are shown below. Shown at the right is the “holy



grail” of how to disassemble the case. The top bolt was manufactured with the bolt staked to the center ring assembly,

after the bolt had been passed through the upper hole in the front bezel. The result is an assembly that cannot be taken apart which makes it impossible to restore correctly. We’ve found the best technique is to grind off the front dimple. Afterwards, the bolt is chucked in the lathe, trued



and center drilled, then tapped with a small tap such as a 1-72 or possibly a 2-56. A new “dimple” is fabricated with a threaded tail much like a screw but with no slot in the head,

shown here assembled for polishing. This allows reassembly later, after all the parts have been restored. The resulting repair is invisible.

After filling pits in the case parts with copper, each part is either tumbled or machine buffed to luster (depending on the size and delicate nature of the part). A nickel flash is applied, immediately followed by a heavy 18 karat gold brush plate. There simply isn’t anything like the finish of gold plating on a Waterbury Spider. It is difficult to avoid the gold if significant pitting has to be filled with copper, although we have seen some nice restorations done by polishing and lacquering the brass base metal (if it is in good condition) instead of gold plating. However, it just isn’t quite as nice as the gold.

The final finish on the movement is of interest. After cleaning and repair work, parts are brushed with a high-quality metal polish such as Flitz polish. The edges of the movement plates are polished to a high gloss, as are the pillars (which are turned in a lathe while buffing them) along with the mainspring barrel. Most of the internal parts of the movement do not appear to have been gold plated with the exception of the main wheel barrel (due to its massive size).

Of all the heartbreaks encountered with the glass-cased Waterburys, nothing is more disappointing than a broken glass sleeve. Although no one to our knowledge sells replacements for these sleeves, there is a way out. Simax borosilicate glass tubing can be purchased in the broadest selection of shapes and sizes from Friedrich and Dimmock in New Jersey. See their website at www.fdglass.com/store. They were willing to cut a 5ft section of tubing to the size we needed, but there was a \$150 minimum sale charge. The other difficulty was that we needed to grind the ends of the sleeves to square and parallel. Presumably it’s difficult to expect a glass cutter to hold tolerances needed in clockmaking.

Shown below is a broken Waterbury glass sleeve, and the cut replacements in the foreground. Unfortunately, we haven’t found a source for glass with air bubbles and ripples as was the case with the vintage glass. 😊 Simax glass is literally a laboratory grade, crystal clear, flawlessly beautiful product.



Glass Sleeves. Shown in the foreground are three cut sections of glass sleeve to be used as Spider cases.

The diameter of these sleeves is about 1mm smaller than the original sleeve, which is not noticeable once installed in the clock. This standard Simax product, cut to size, makes a nice replacement for broken or missing Spider glass cases

July Meeting: Clock Case Restoration



Did you ever wonder if that clock case can ever look good again? Is the clock with the split wood or the sun-faded case worth my time? Is there anything I can do, short of stripping the wood and totally refinishing, to make this case look “new” again?

If you were able to attend the July meeting, you’ll know that the answer to these questions is “YES!” – and you got to see it firsthand. Starting with a rough clock case and pieces of raw wood, Jay Holloway and Ken Reindel demonstrated the processes and some of the products used to clean and restore wood to its original beauty. As an added bonus, they also provided an excellent step-by-step hand out that included specifications and various providers for the hard-to-find products.

Several of the sixteen members in attendance commented that they had learned more about refinishing during this two hour program than they had in all their years of collecting! Plans are being considered for a hands-on restoration workshop; be sure to let us know if you would be interested so we can include it in our 2011 schedule. Thanks to Jay and Ken for presenting this information and for agreeing to lead a workshop next year.

Treasurer’s Report (no change)	
Chapter Account	7,669.19
Regional Account	\$4,363.60



More pictures from the 2010 National

Bob in front of the NAWCC Museum



Karen at the convention with her reverse glass paintings



Clock tower at NAWCC offices in Columbia

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Save The Date

- August 27th – 29th
All Texas Regional
Houston, Texas
Chapter 15 is co-host

- September 25th
Restoration of a tower clock
Gene Galbraith
Location - Southwest Museum of
Clocks & Watches
Lockhart TX

- October 23rd
Fusee movements
Bob Rasmussen

Coming in 2011

Chapter 15's program and workshop plans for 2011 are underway. We're already planning to schedule workshops on wooden clock works and case restoration. We're also working to join efforts with the Capitol Area Watchmakers and Clockmakers Guild to provide additional workshops in the Central Texas area.

Are there other workshops, program topics or activities you'd like to see? Are you willing to prepare a program or demonstration? Do you know of someone who would be willing to share their knowledge?

The talent, knowledge and years of experience among Chapter 15 members is unbelievable! Whether by attendance at Chapter functions, giving programs or writing articles for the MainSpring, let's all be active in sharing our love of horology!