

## 2010 in review and 2011 plans

2010 was an active year for Chapter 15! In addition to our annual meeting, one-day, program, and anniversary celebration in May, and annual potluck in November, we had two workshops, six programs and co-hosted three regionals. And if that wasn't enough, many of our members were also spotted at the National in York!

You may have noticed that these activities aligned closely with the Chapter's Mission Statement that was included in the December MainSpring:

**"We in Chapter 15 are committed to excel as a most vibrant Chapter in the NAWCC. We will demonstrate this through superior educational programs on clocks, watches, and other related horological topics, the most comprehensive website in the NAWCC, and engaging, fun social opportunities for all members. Our social programs will be an example for other Chapters to follow."**

As we have been planning for 2011, we're keeping the mission statement in mind – not only the preceding paragraph, but also the second part:

**"We believe in working with other horological societies—not competing with them—to serve our members. We will reach out to the community to spread our passion, with hopes of inspiring them to learn from the decades of experience we have here locally. Through this effort we can preserve our great Chapter history and continued interest in Horology."**

As you make your plans for 2011, we hope that you will be sure to schedule time for our monthly functions and that you will invite your friends to join you. Remember that our programs and workshops are open to the public; membership is not required to attend. We're continuing the search for a centrally-located, cost effective site for meetings to accommodate larger groups and make it even more convenient for everyone to attend.

Looking for a way you can contribute to the Chapter? Think about presenting a program, or if that seems a little daunting, send along a MainSpring article or bench tips that may be of interest to our

members. If you're interested in writing an article or taking part in a program, but would like some assistance, let us know. We have people who would be happy to assist you. We're looking forward to seeing you around in 2011!!

## Clock distribution – the early days

Did you ever think about how clocks and watches got from the workshop or factory to someone's home in the early days of the American clock industry? Finding and purchasing goods isn't something we give much consideration to today. If I need a new clock, I go to the store or the internet and buy what I need, pretty much any hour of day or night. If I buy it locally, it's in my home and running that day; if I choose to buy online, it may take a day or two longer, but it's delivered right to my door.

Now take a step back in time with me – let's say to the early 1800s – to the home of a young man named Chauncey Jerome. This enterprising gentleman struck a bargain to sell twelve clocks to a business man in a neighboring town. When these clocks were complete, he hired an old horse and lumber wagon from one of his neighbors to transport the clocks.

After this large sale, Mr. Jerome again hired a man with a lumber wagon to take him and a dozen Pillar Scroll Top Clocks to a town about 25 miles away. Once there, the man with the wagon returned home and Chauncey set out on foot with a clock under each arm. He then went door-to-door selling the clocks for the amazing sum of \$18 apiece. It was a Saturday afternoon when all the clocks were sold, and he proceeded to walk home through "snow porridge" all the way, arriving home on Sunday morning.

If you'd like to learn more about the early days of the clock industry, you might want to read an interesting little book called *History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Years and Life of Chauncey Jerome* written by Chauncey Jerome. You may never again take one of the early clocks in your collection for granted – particularly if you've ever ridden in a lumber wagon or walked in the snow for a day!

Treasurer's Report	
<b>Chapter Account</b>	<b>\$7,603.69</b>
Membership renewal	<u>160.00</u>
	<b>\$7,763.69</b>
<b>Regional Account</b>	<b>\$4,363.60</b>

### Chapter membership

It's that time again – time to renew your Chapter 15 membership for 2011. It's easier than ever with the addition of the Chapter 15 website PayPal option. If you have an email address, please consider receiving your newsletter electronically – not only does it reduce our costs, it's environmentally friendly.

Chapter 15 Membership Application  
 New Application / Renewal (circle one)  
 Membership Dues are \$10

*You must be a current and paid NAWCC member 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send my Chapter 15 newsletter by email.

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC  
 Enclose this application and check and send to:  
 Pat Holloway  
 1105 Lafayette Lane  
 Pflugerville, TX 78660

## Restoration of a 1927 Style 1 Baby Ben Alarm Clock

By Ken Reindel

The number of alarm clock collectors seems to have increased over the last decade or so. In particular, early Westclox models are a very common favorite with them. Collectors enjoy the early Westclox models as examples of American ingenuity and creativity. Many fine models could be purchased new in the early 1900's for around \$1.00 (probably close to \$15 in today's currency). These clocks were well-engineered and very rugged, and many have withstood the test of almost 100 years in service. We've had several customers ask us to restore or maintain their early Westclox models as the clock of choice that they use on their bed stands because of their reliability, robustness, loud alarms, and decorative charm.

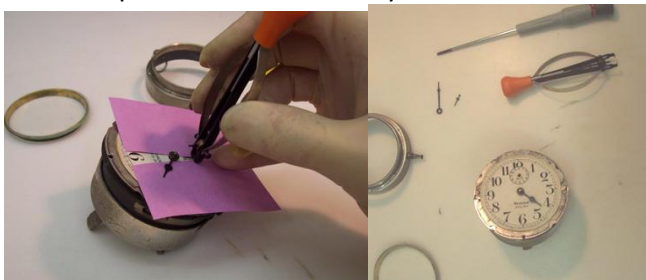
This article focuses on the restoration of a 1927 Style 1 Baby Ben. We'll be going into detail on the restoration of the movement and case, as well as the hands. Fortunately, this clock has a dial that is in at least good condition, so the restoration promises to result in a very attractive clock. As received, the clock is shown below.



It's evident from the pictures (and even more so in real life) that the case on this clock is distressed. The nickel plating is at end of life. Attempts to polish it were futile, offering marginal improvement and wearing the nickel through. The rear bell cover has a substantial amount of rust pitting which doesn't polish very well. Further, a leg is missing and the bottom of the case is fairly distorted, probably caused by the same force that dislodged the leg. The center picture also shows that the hand is loose. Someone had attempted to tighten the minute hand by smashing the arbor down, and had in the process separated the hand collet. The collet and hand are rattling around loose under the glass and the tip of the center wheel arbor is distorted. The front and rear

screws show signs of having been removed and replaced several times. They are rusty and discolored and the slots are burred, but not badly stripped.

The first step in the restoration is to remove the front bezel and dial. There are three small screws retaining the bezel assembly. Removing those gives us access to the dial and hands as shown below. To remove the dial, the hands must be removed. No problem in this case with the minute hand, but the alarm setter remains a challenge. To remove this setter, it is absolutely imperative that a miniature hand puller be used. Prying any hand off against the dial will mar the dial or distort the thin dial pan. Note the use of a small piece of paper. A sliver is cut out of the paper so that it can be slipped under the setter. This prevents accidental marring from the hand puller. Even though the puller is designed to avoid touching the dial, the setter has a deep collet and you must get under the collet if you want to get the assembly off in one piece. If you pull on the hand and not the collet, you'll be re-riveting the collet to the hand, which will pop right off and separate. At times this is unavoidable. This time the entire assembly came right off. It helps to rock the puller side to side gently, which helps coax the setter away.



On the right is a view of the dial with hand safely removed as well as another view of the puller. No damage was done to the dial with this approach.

It's important to do everything possible to preserve the dials on these antique clocks. If the dial is in good condition, the entire clock looks better. If the dial is marred from careless hands, or oil-stained, it brings down the appearance of the entire clock. An original dial in good condition carries a heritage forward with the clock.

The hour hand pulled away in this case with a gentle twist at the center wheel (NEVER twist the hand itself), and no tools were required. Now that the hands are removed, the dial can be lifted off, exposing the movement. At this point, the rear assembly easily comes apart exposing the movement as is shown

below. It's very important to start thinking about organizing the project. Note the dial and hands which have been stored in a plastic bag for protection. On the right, a small Tupperware container is used to store the movement and other parts until it is time to focus on them. Wrapping the lens in a plastic bag is prudent as well.



*(Check back next month to learn how the case of this little clock is returned to its former glory.)*

## January program

Make plans now to attend the January program on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Bob Rasmussen has prepared a fascinating program on fusee movements, including a variety of examples for us to see. These examples range from a movement small enough to fit in a pocket watch to some large enough to spot from a distance. You'll learn about the movements themselves as well as their history.

Everyone is welcome to bring examples or pictures of fusee clocks to share and discuss as part of this program. And, as always, please plan to bring a friend!

## Board members and Contact information

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### **Save the Date**

- January 22, 10:00 a.m.  
1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville  
Fusee movements program  
Bob Rasmussen
- February 26, 10:00 a.m.  
Program
- March 4 & 5  
Lone Star Regional  
Mesquite
- March 26, 10:00 a.m.  
Westclox – their history and clocks  
Ken Reindel
- April – Make plans now to attend our annual meeting in April. (Tentatively planned for Saturday, April 30.) This year's event is shaping up to be even bigger than last year's with a mart, program and workshop you won't want to miss! All this on top of fantastic friends, fellowship and food!
- June – Don't miss this year's National Convention June 8-12. Take advantage of the proximity and the opportunity to drive to beautiful Overland Park Kansas. What better chance to attend the National Convention and to meet up with your friends from across the nation?