



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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## President's message

I would like to start my message by thanking the members of Chapter 139 for giving me the opportunity to continue my service. I have always been more comfortable in diagnosis and repair than in administration. I am, however, surrounded by a very capable Board of Directors.

Every day it seems as if we are living a story out of a Buck Rogers comic book. We have gone from hi-fi to wi-fi; from VHS television to digital television; from rotary phones to iPhones and even space travel for citizens. We are truly living the fantasy.

Even with all the modern technology we continue to be drawn to antique clocks and watches. What is the fascination? It is great just knowing that someone had the know-how to create something that is still working after 100 years or more. Or is it that these clocks and watches are a thing of beauty? Regardless of the style of the clock be it wood or metal they are still very addictive.

I look forward to our Tech Sessions on the second Saturday of each month because you never know what treasure, problem or show and tell someone will bring in. We have gained some new faces and met some new friends and want to keep everyone coming back by designating a clock or watch repair topic for each month.

The Chapter has been asked on more than one occasion to help sell watch and clock collections for families of members that have passed away. It is always good to provide this service to the family and get these clocks back in circulation. I hope that we can continue to do so.

I am excited about the All Texas Regional in August. We had good response to the new location last year but after listening to comments some changes will be made. Mart Chair, John Trego, is busy organizing and lining up chairmen for the registration, exhibit, educational sessions and the silent auction. We again will have our Chapter sponsored silent auction at the regional. Several Chapter members have taken donated clocks home to be refurbished for this auction. Our main exhibit will be American Weight Regulators. Please contact me with what you are willing to share.

This is your Chapter too. The more you get involved the more the rewards and the stronger 139 will be. We can always use your input, ideas and energy. Please volunteer.

Marcus Bush  
President Chapter 139

## A few of the clocks for this year's Regional Silent Auction



## Outgoing President's Message

~ Darrah Artzner

Two years have gone by very quickly and it just seems like I have been in a whirlwind. Several changes were made during this time that altered the course of the Chapter and it appears as though it has been to the positive. Significant changes that readily come to mind are: the change of location for the All Texas Chapters Regional, its Schedule of events, Chapter sponsored Silent Auction and public access to the Mart (to be implemented this year); the permanency of having Technical Sessions every second Saturday of each month; occasional and regularly scheduled mini classes taught by in-house staff during the Technical Sessions; regularly published newsletters of excellent quality; continued success of Chapter sponsored Field Classes; upgrading of the Chapter web site; and the proverbial eBlast mailings that have been keeping members informed of the latest Chapter information and happenings .

Minor changes were also made to update and improve the inner workings of the Chapter. For example, updating the Chapter's bylaws so that they are current with today's standards and changing banking facilities for obtaining better interest rates on our CDs. Many of these changes don't mean much by themselves but their combined effect has produced a well run, efficient and better managed San Jacinto Chapter 139. I plan to continue assisting the Chapter by providing my support as Director and working on activities, such as Regional preregistration/registration and support of areas involving electronic data and information, as in the past. Please keep in mind that your Board contains members that are energetic and willing to make sacrifices for this Chapter and the accomplishments mentioned above would not have been possible without the help of each and every one. My thanks go to the Officers, Directors, and Special Projects personnel for making this happen.

Respectfully,

Darrah Artzner

## All Texas Chapters Regional

*Sponsored by San Jacinto Chapter 139 and co-hosts 15, 80, 117 and 124*



**AUGUST 22-24, 2013 - HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**Host Hotel: Marriott Westchase  
2900 Briarpark, Houston 77042**

- \* Exhibit of American Weight Driven Regulators
- \* Large Mart Room
- \* Educational Programs
- \* It's for Free
- \* Free Parking
- \* Silent Auctions

**Please see [sanjacinto139.homestead.com](http://sanjacinto139.homestead.com)  
for registration form and hotel reservation link.**

## February One-Day and Annual Meeting

~ Marcus Bush

The February 16<sup>th</sup> One Day Show at the Grace Community Church was a rousing success for about 40 clock collectors. As advertised through an E-Blast a collection of clocks that had been in storage for years was for sale.

Most of the shoppers stayed on for the Annual Business meeting where a revised version of the Chapter 139 ByLaws was accepted. A new slate of officers was voted in. Marcus Bush is the new President, John Trego - Vice-President, Becky Bush - Secretary and Darrah Artzner - Director.



A great educational program was presented by some of the Board Members. Darrah Artzner had a PowerPoint slide show on the great precision movement of Bulle Clocks. Marcus Bush showed the variations between the short drop and long drop Fashion clocks. Avin Brownlee demonstrated a between the plates alarm on a New Haven Tiber.

Tim Glanzman showed a homemade "Frankenstein" clock from the Bill Walker collection. This clock was made from parts gleaned from the "It's for Free" tables at the Chapter 139 shows.



George

Kabacinski explained how a single winding arbor could wind two springs and power a time and strike Crystal Regulator movement by Boston Clock Company. John Trego gave a program on the origin and operation of

the French Morbier or "Country Clock" and Ben Fulbright introduced the group to French and English roasting Jacks. These gadgets, with clock-like movements, powered spits on open fireplaces.



## Tech Sessions

### January - Mini Session on Bushing Techniques by Del Rolison and John Trego

The Chapter 139 Tech Sessions remain a favorite time for the members. A good crowd was on hand for the

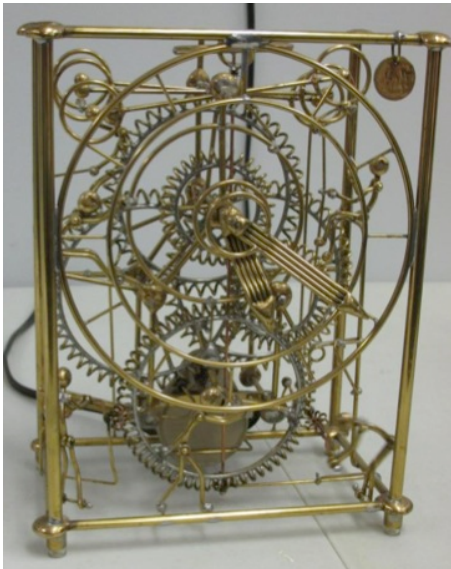


January Tech Session where questions were asked and answered by Del Rolison on using the bushing machine. John Trego showed how to cope with the problem of bushing the old fashioned way without the machine. Several members tried their hand at bushing for the first time.



### February - Mini Session on Spring Barrel Techniques by Marcus Bush

In February, the Chapter members got some good tips from Marcus Bush on removing, cleaning and replacing springs from a barrel. The group also enjoyed a show and tell session by Liz Lundgren talking about her “Six Man Clock” created and patented by Gordon Bradt in 1982. The design is a handcrafted kinetic clock sculpture in which six little men seem to toil endlessly powering the clock.



However, this is merely an illusion. The little men actually do no work at all. The clock is powered by a synchronous motor that turns the first wheel in the time train, and the men follow the power provided to the time train.”



Darrah Artzner explained to the group that his “unique American made Plato clock was patented by Eugene L. Fitch and made from 1904 to 1906.” They were produced after 1906 by a licensed French company and three non licensed German companies. The clock presented at the show was made by the French company and dates after 1906 and prior to 1910. The time telling, flipping ticket mechanism is identical

to those found in the American made Plato clocks. The movement is a French made design that has similar size and shape as the original U.S. movement plates but utilizes a hairspring balance and jewels for increased accuracy. The hefty case is rectangular in shape with four fluted columns, two in front and two to the rear, on each side of the ticket assembly that is protected in a glass cylinder. The base has some relief with feet and the top is flat, but overall, is relatively plain. The brass case shows traces of silver plate but it is not clear as to whether it was plated entirely or just specific parts (e.g. columns).”



### March - Mini Session on American clock count wheel and strike by Andy Staton

Andy Staton conducted the March Tech Session program, explaining the American clock count wheel and strike. He had created an error in one of the examples to see if the group could spot it...and they did. He also had



French and German movement to compare the differences in the strike mechanisms.

About 30 miscellaneous clocks were donated to the Chapter. Marcus Bush recommended that interested and willing members take a clock or two to refurbish for the August Regional Meeting silent auction. Pictures were taken to show the “before” of before and after the work that will be done on each clock. It looks like we will have a good assortment in the auction to benefit the Chapter.

Again the Show and Tell segment of the Saturday session was a great hit with the Chapter members. Wayne Denham brought a Gustav Becker spring driven Grand Sonnerie Gallery clock. Wayne purchased this rare clock at the Lone Star Regional earlier in March. The suggestion of this great clock’s appearance piqued the interest of John Hubby. John had never seen a clock like this in all his research. He shared his excitement with the group and congratulated Wayne on his purchase.



Gary Briggs had a Black Forest clock with wooden plates, brass gears and steel shafts. This clock is probably from the 1850 to 1870 era and came in a tall case. John Hubby was able to give some insight on this clock as well.

Ben Fulbright showed two little grandfather clocks that probably went in dollhouses at one time. It was surprising that both clocks still worked.

As usual members enlisted help in solving problems with their clock projects. The Tech Session program for April will be on Hairspring Movement Adjustment and will be led by Darrah Artzner. In May, Drew and Liz Lundgren will share their recently acquired knowledge on Recoil Escapement Recondition and Adjustment.

### Upcoming events

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend these upcoming events. Additional details will be provided in upcoming issues of the newsletter as well as on the [website](#).

➤ April 13	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session* Darrah Artzner Hairspring Movement Adjustment
➤ May 11	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session* Liz and Drew Lundgren Recoil Escapement Recondition and Adjustment
➤ May 18	8 a.m.	<b>Chapter 139 One Day Show</b> Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055
➤ June 8	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session Pivot Polishing

\*Location: All Tech Sessions 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.

Chapter 139  
Treasurer's Report  
March, 2013

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2013.....	\$13,321.92
Deposits.....	1,363.32
Withdrawals and Debits.....	941.27
Withdrawals and Debits include	
\$ 62.97 Internet Website	
63.96 Constant Contact	
400.00 Rent and change for one day show	
162.00 Insurance for Regional	
102.34 New checks purchase	
<u>500.00</u> Donation to Chapter 124 for Lone Star Regional	
\$941.27	
Ending Balance March 15, 2013.....	\$13,743.97

ASSETS AT JSCFCU (as of March 15, 2013)

Regular shares.....	5.00
12 Month CD.....	\$ 5,025.82
24 Month CD.....	20,136.06
Total Assets as of March 15, 2013.....	\$38,910.85
Submitted March 15, 2013 by Avin S. Brownlee, Treasurer	

**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 Avin Brownlee, Chapter 139 Treasurer, 1123 Glendale Dr., Sugarland, TX 77479. 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. Not only does electronic distribution save money, it's good for the environment.**