



San Jacinto Star



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

This past year was a great time for all those that took advantage of the activities and educational events sponsored by your Chapter. It was a year noted for the new All Texas Chapters Regional location, the first Chapter sponsored Regional Silent Auction, Field Trip to San Antonio to tour one of the most extensive clock collections in the area and Lockhart's Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches, Houston City Hall Tower Clock tour, excellent presentations during our One Day and Regional shows, Chapter sponsored Field courses (case restoration, French clock, reverse glass painting, molds and casting), and all the mini sessions that occurred during our Saturday Technical Sessions.

During the second half of the year Chapter members initiated a resolution to adopt the City Hall Tower clock located at the corner of Market Square in order to preserve and maintain the movement and the immediate area around the tower at no charge to the City. The Board supports this proposal and it is anticipated that an agreement will be reached sometime during 2013. Rather than spending several pages documenting what members participated in and what accomplishments were made during the past year, I would rather present some snap shots for you to peruse what was done, how we did it and some results. There are no descriptions, just fantasize! Thank you for your support and I am confident this year will be as interesting and exciting as the last.



Chapter Board members have specific goals to accomplish for the 2013 year. These will include updating the Chapter's By-laws so they are more in-line with today's standards, providing Technical Sessions with more structured mini sessions, and solidifying an agreement with the City for maintaining the City Hall Tower Clock. These changes have already been initiated and will be accomplished as the year progresses. Field courses will continue, but, remember, you need to express your desire to learn so we know what should be scheduled. Visit the Chapter web site to obtain information on this topic as well as other activities.

Please try to attend the February One Day Show. The Chapter's Annual Meeting will be conducted and your input is important so newly elected Board members know what goals are desired. There are several Board positions open for nomination at this time, I will be sending out an eBlast about these, and we are always looking for members that can spare a small portion of their time to a subject we all cannot live without, namely clocks and watches. Send your nominations to me at darragh@aol.com. The positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary as well as Director positions will be up for election. By-laws that guide the Board on how the Chapter is conducted will have changes, refer to the web site to view suggested changes (not final), to be voted on during the meeting. These changes are mainly meant to update existing language and a few policies that do not reflect the true operation of the Chapter.

Respectfully,
Darrah Artzner
President Chapter 139

Houston Tower Clock Tour

~ Marcus Bush

On the thirteenth of October in place of the usual Technical Session, twenty-two Chapter 139 members and two curious bicycle riders visited the Houston City Hall Tower Clock.

This 1904 Seth Thomas clock and 1877 bell were once an important part of the Houston City Hall and Market. The clock and bell served three different City Hall buildings. When city hall was moved to Bagby Street the clock and bell were separated. There are many stories about the clock since it was put into storage sometime in 1960. The Seth Thomas #16 tower clock was located in Woodville Texas in 1978 and eventually returned to Houston. For a while the original bell hung in the city fire station Number One, located where the downtown Aquarium restaurant now stands.



In 1994 the city council authorized the clock and a fire bell to be housed in a permanent structure. The brick structure is named for Louis and Annie Friedman and sits at the corner of Travis and Congress. Chapter 139 made a proposal to the City of

Houston for the care and maintenance of this clock.

After the tower clock visit, fourteen members attended a chapter sponsored lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse. This restaurant, reported to be haunted, is an interesting place to eat and look around.



Houston. For a while the original bell hung in the city fire station Number One, located where the downtown Aquarium restaurant now stands.



November One Day Show

Presentation on Basic Silver Soldering Techniques by Val Link

Members attending the November One Day Show were given the opportunity to attend a presentation given by Val Link. Val is a recently retired professor from the University of Houston's jewelry department where he specialized in silver and gold work. Luckily for the Chapter, he is also a watch and clock collector and uses his soldering talents on time pieces requiring that special type of repair. Val states that this type of soldering is more appropriate when dealing with broken watch cases or any clock pieces that are made of special materials or have designs that common soldering will often destroy.

He began his talk by giving us a slide show of some artwork he made to date and a few examples are shown here.



Gold and silver soldering is not your every day type of soldering, however the basic steps are pretty much the same. According to Val there are seven critical steps necessary for producing a successful solder joint with silver and they are as follows:

1. All joint areas to be soldered must fit well (good physical contact), solder cannot be used as a filler.
2. All solder joint areas and areas adjacent to solder joint must be cleaned and remain clean throughout the soldering process. Oxides in the solder joint area will prevent the solder from migrating into the joint area.
3. Make appropriate decisions to jig or hold pieces together in the proper position during the soldering process. Examples are: black iron binding wire; wire clips, third hand soldering tweezers, etc.
4. Use soldering flux liberally to prevent the pieces being soldered from oxidizing. Flux can be in either a liquid or paste form.
5. Apply solder pallions or clippings to the fluxed joint area.
6. Gently apply heat to the metal being soldered. The heat generated by the metal being soldered should cause the solder to flow, not the direct flame. DO NOT try to heat the solder directly with the torch. When solder flows it will be pulled into the joint by capillary action. The solder will displace the flux. If the metal is not hot enough the solder will not flow and will not be pulled into the joint.
7. When the soldered joint is completed allow the piece to cool enough to lose heat redness. When all redness is gone quench piece in pickling acid, 5 to 10% sulfuric acid and water or sodium bisulfate crystals and water. Note: remove all jiggling wires or devices before inserting piece in pickling solution. Any iron or steel inserted into pickle will cause copper in solution to plate on any metal objects in the solution and contaminate the solution. Always use a very high silver content commercial solder or a jewelry grade silver solder when silver soldering. Do not use a lead or tin base solder. Jeweler's grade silver solder can be purchased at Jewelers Supply stores and through the internet.

Val gave the audience a brief introduction to his heat source, namely the oxyacetylene torch. He discussed the gas tanks, gases, regulator and special micro tips. He then talked about soldering flux and its function and then mentioned the various physical forms (shown below) used when teaching students various soldering techniques.



He also mentioned the use of securing devices such as that shown to the right, the use of firebricks, and fire safety.



Val prefers using an easy flow medium grade silver solder. Medium solder has the characteristics of 1390° F. melting point, medium to high temperature, good silver content and color. While easy solder has characteristics of 1325° F. melting point (lower

than medium), lower silver content and fair silver color. If a lower flow point solder is needed there is an Easy Flow grade with a melting point of 1270°.

There were some important characteristics about silver soldering that Val mentioned toward the end of his presentation and they include: 1. Solder flows to the source of heat. 2. Solder will not flow into oxidized areas or joints. 3. Oxides in the form of iron oxide, Yellow ochre pigment etc. can be used to ones advantage by using it to intentionally prevent solder from flowing in specific areas. The oxide is mixed with water to make a fluid paste and applied to the desired area with a small brush. 4. A slightly higher temperature is required to flow a previously soldered joint. 5. When soldering small pieces to larger pieces the larger piece must be heated proportionately more than the small piece. This is done to prevent the small piece from getting too hot and having the solder flow only to the small piece. 6. Solder cannot be used effectively as filler. There is no substitute for a well-fitted joint.

7. Silver soldering is referred to as low temperature brazing or high temperature soldering. It seems to fall in the middle of the two joining methods. 8. Silver soldering is a molecular joining process. As the metal is heated the metal expands leaving small gaps between the metal crystals. When the solder flows it penetrates the small gaps between the crystals creating an extremely strong joint. In many instances the soldered joint is stronger than the base metal it joined.

Val mentioned that he would be happy to present a more formalized hands on class if demand from members exists. So, you know what I am going to say next. *LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.*

Chapter Financially Successful in 2012

This past year your Chapter managed to become financially successful due, mostly, to a few measures the Board felt necessary to change. First, the account used to hold our funds was moved to a facility that offers a little more interest than the almost zero percentage we were getting from the previous facility. Second, tracking of our membership dues has been strengthened and has provided us with more accurate records for following up on lapsed membership. Third, our Regional was run more efficiently and moved to a facility offering more bang for the buck. With that being stated, the Board felt it was time to not only support the National in name only but monetarily as well. Therefore, we donated \$500.00 to their general fund. We also voted to assist the host/hostess of the Chapter's Holiday party by donating \$100.00 toward this function to help offset what can be an expensive venture. These donations were not voted in as something that must be given on an annual basis but, hopefully, will continue as long as the Chapter's funds allow and need remains.

Membership Renewal Time

Just a reminder that Chapter 139 membership runs concurrent with the calendar year. If you haven't already renewed for 2013, please take this opportunity to complete the renewal form found on page 6 or available on the website, and send the completed form to Avin Brownlee. Or, you can save the cost of a stamp and renew when you attend the upcoming Tech Sessions or February One Day. Thanks for your continued support of our Chapter!

Holiday Party

~ Becky Bush

Our annual Christmas party was graciously hosted by Mary Lou Leason on the ninth of December. Our hostess opened her home to the twenty-three members, so that they could enjoy seeing the clocks that she and



her husband Don, had collected over the years.

An abundance of food including turkey, ham, homemade lasagna and all the trimmings was enjoyed by all but everyone acted like kids as they anxiously awaited the white elephant gift exchange. This exchange of watch and clock related items always provides a lot of

laughs and this year was no exception. Several items like an O.G. project, a Westminster tambour project and two gift



certificates from Time Savers were stolen until they were frozen. Darrah Artzner opened both certificates and was lucky enough to end up with one. Jay Holloway had both gift certificates in his hand at one time or another but ended up with neither.



No one went home disappointed in his or her gift but they might have had thoughts about the one that got away.



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](#).

➤ January 12	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session* Mini-class – Hand/Machine bushing
➤ February 9		Tech Session*
➤ February 16	8 a.m.	Chapter 139 Annual Meeting and One Day Show Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055 Entry \$5; Table \$5
➤ March 1/2		Lone Star Regional Co-hosted by Chapter 139
➤ March 9	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session*

*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
December, 2012

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance Dec. 1, 2012.....	\$13,649.23
Deposits.....	+ 315.00
Withdrawals and Debits.....	- 642.31
Withdrawals and Debits include	
\$ 20.99 Intuit Website	
21.32 Constant Contact	
100.00 Christmas party	
<u>500.00</u> Donation to NAWCC	
\$642.31	
Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2012.....	\$13,321.92

ASSETS AT JSCFCU (as of January 4, 2013)

12 Month CD.....	\$ 5,016.15
24 Month CD.....	20,085.07
Regular shares.....	<u>5.00</u>
	\$25,106.22

Submitted January 5, 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.**