



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

Howdy friends.

Yes, I am an Aggie and I am sure some of the things I've done have been the subject of Aggie jokes. I retired from the corporate world on August 1st knowing the All Texas Chapters Regional was fast approaching. I expended much of my energy in worrying about whether or not things would get done in time for the Regional and if we'd have people to do the work. That led to many almost sleepless nights. It was during this time that Darrah spoke to me in the parking lot at a Tech Session saying, "Don't worry, it'll all work out." In the end the joke was on me because a core group of volunteers made sure that the Regional was a success and my worry was unnecessary. We have some really great, hard-working people in the Chapter. So, here's a big heart-felt THANK YOU to each person who made this year's Regional a success and all of you can laugh at me for worrying.

In addition to the monthly Tech Sessions, we have three events between now and the end of the year. Chapter 139 is helping with the 2015 NAWCC Ward Francillon Time Symposium to be held at the Westchase Marriott, where we now have the Regional. That'll be October 22 through 24. It will focus on clockwork driven devices, especially music boxes. We have another one-day show coming up on November 7th and fortunately they're not a lot of work for us. And finally we have the yet to be scheduled Christmas party. In fact, at the time I'm writing this, we do not yet have a location for the Christmas party. Volunteers???

During the Regional, I had some good conversation with Carroll Wolfe, the representative visiting from the National organization. I hope you also had a chance to meet him because he's a genuinely good guy. One concern of his, which I share, is the shrinking membership of the National organization and of local chapters. In fact, he told me that just recently the Charter for Rio Grande Chapter 117 was withdrawn due to a lack of membership and activity. Our Chapter is relatively healthy in terms of membership, but I'd feel better if we were adding more members. Ben Fulbright says he keeps NAWCC membership forms with him to give to people when opportunities arise. In fact, you can put your name on the form and get some money off your next renewal. I've been fortunate to bring in one new member this year and have two more in mind that I'm hoping will join. I'm asking that you think about bringing people into NAWCC and into our Chapter. We have a great group and isn't that worth sharing with others? And, by the please be sure to pay your Chapter 139 dues if you haven't done it yet.

Sincerely,
Drew

2015 All Texas Chapters Regional

In spite of all the rain that occurred during unloading and sporadically during the event, this year's regional was very successful with attendance very similar to last year. More prizes were awarded during the Mart, presentations, demos and breakfast. An amazing replica mantle clock cake was auctioned off and almost all items in the Chapter sponsored Silent Auction were sold. More information about this amazing cake and its model can be found on page 9. Demonstrations on screw cutting and statue refinishing were added to the great lineup of presentations, silent auctions and "It's For Free!" activities. An extensive exhibit of American-made clocks and watches were available for viewing in the lobby area. As an additional treat, the Lovett Elementary award-winning Art Car Parade entry entitled "Owl-ways a Good Time" was on display just outside the doors of the convention area for everyone to enjoy. Many thanks to the volunteers whose efforts made this event possible!

Following are a few pictures of this year's activities, and additional shots can be found on the Chapter website at <http://sanjacinto139.homestead.com/Gallery2.html> .



Clockwise from above:
1. Lovett Elementary art car
2. American Made Clock Exhibit
3. Val Link, Justin Overton, Albert Rambaud – this year's winners of the big door prizes
4. Shaun Clarke, Carroll Wolfe (National Rep), and Drew Lundgren drawing for prizes at the breakfast meeting



Educational events

Thanks to everyone who supports the Chapter's many educational offerings with your attendance and willingness to share. There are many more pictures posted on the Chapter website.

July Tech Session



There were not many repairs going on but there was a lot of planning for the August Regional. Details such as a list of presenters, fine-tuning of the Main Exhibit, Silent Auction updates, etc. – everything was being finalized.

Ben Fulbright did bring in a clock that might have been in the running for the ugliest clock entry. It was American-made and was included in the Main Regional Exhibit. As you can see, the clock's main theme is nature.

The Chapter Board of Directors conducted a meeting after the session to discuss some specific tasks relating to the Regional. Some of us even went home with a trunk full of registration materials in preparation for the big event.



September Tech Session

President Drew Lundgren had to miss this session, and Shaun Clarke, VP, assumed the responsibility of bringing the happy group under control for a brief meeting. NAWCC and Chapter membership, and attracting new members was discussed. An especially important note that was brought out was that members can't participate in Chapter events without being current. The Board will send out notices prior to the end of the year about membership dues renewal. Various members of the Board presented a Regional Review, and it was concluded that it was a success in spite of a slight downward trend in attendance from the previous year. Several comments were made about keeping up the educational programs and to advertise around the area.

The Ward Francillon Time Symposium was discussed and it was decided to purchase an audio/video system for this event and for use at all future Chapter happenings. This was decided after the quote for the Symposium's audio/visual needs was discussed.

Shaun Clarke gave an excellent presentation on how to replace pocket watch crystals. Some attendees took advantage of the opportunity by bringing in their own watches for repair. Shaun cheerfully made everyone happy. Ben Fulbright brought in a vintage tool catalogue that was almost as old as he.

Marcus Bush held a mini session for a few folks on how to replace a main spring. Darrah Artzner looked in on them, and discovered that the movement being worked on was a Westminster chime with only two main springs. Most have three. It was a very interesting session.



Model for a Regional Cake

- By Darrah Artzner

During the August 2015 All Texas Chapters Regional, Houston, Texas, a cake in the form of an early 1900 shelf clock (Figures 1 and 2) made by Katrina Clarke was auctioned off to benefit Chapter 139. Ben Fulbright volunteered to conduct the auction and so it began. When the smoke settled, Marcus Bush ended up being the high bidder. He paid the bill and quickly cut up the cake, assisted by Hilda Norris, and shared it with everyone. So much for a super clock cake!



Figure 1. Front of the clock cake.



Figure 2. Rear view of clock cake.

Now, here is a bit of information that you probably do not know. Katrina Clarke is the wife of our current Chapter Vice President Shaun Clarke. She is a very talented person who decorates cakes as a serious hobby – sort of like being a serious watch or clock collector. Anyhow, she volunteered to make a clock cake, I don't remember exactly, but probably at the request of her husband, for an entirely different reason other than an auction. This objective eventually did not work out but no one knew that until the day of the Regional, and then it was too late to do anything about it. So it was auctioned off to help support the Chapter.

Now, let us step back and take a look prior to making the final product. Katrina needed an example of a clock as an example but since her husband is a watch collector and repairer, and she does not know much about clocks or watches, nothing was readily available. Shaun contacted me about it, and I said I had one clock she could use as a model. Keep in mind that I am not a diehard clock collector, but one that also concentrates on pocket watches. After work one day Shaun stopped over at my place and I showed him a black clock that I thought would do the job. It was an E. Ingraham ebonized wood shelf clock and the only example I have of that type of clock. My wife calls it the ugly clock.

During my early days of collecting I was fascinated with working on anything that was supposed to tick. I just liked working on stuff! The E. Ingraham clock mentioned here was one of the very first clocks I purchased for study. I remember that I was fascinated by the two coils of unwound springs when I first looked inside and had to figure out how to contain them when taking the clock movement apart for study and cleaning. I had very little knowledge of clock repair at that time and did not know anyone on whom I could rely for questions about it. I had just joined Chapter 139 and knew no one I could pester. All was not lost though as I had been interested in clocks since a teenager and read about them from time to time. I had mechanical ability, still do, and could manage on my own. Somehow I got through it and did a fairly decent job. I hand washed all parts in a water based solution and dried it in the hot Houston sun. I knew about pegging the pivot holes and what to look for concerning pivots. It was just those darn main springs that bothered me until I found a good use for some large nylon ties I had laying around. I didn't have a main spring winder of any type then so utilized what I had and they worked great.

Somehow I got through it successfully – mostly because of the many great books available from the NAWCC

and other sources. Oh, I still use nylon ties to this day when working on these non-barreled main spring movements.

After Shaun returned my clock, I had a second look at it and was impressed on how well it was keeping time. I forgot that it has a bell that rings on the half hour, a pleasant sounding gong for time, and it runs for a solid week before winding. After staring at it for a while I began to think that it was not that ugly. Was I losing it? Well, I continued to admire it and then noticed that no gold trim showed on my clock as was depicted in the E. Ingraham catalog photo (referenced below). I gave it a second look to see if any remained and nothing showed. I then got a little aggressive with a tooth pick and sharp pencil by running them along the inscribed lines and gradually many years of wax (dirty or black) started to flake out of the inscribed ornamental lines. I could then see some of the original gold that filled the engravings on the case front to show through. There is not much left but just enough to show off the inscribed pattern against the black background. A black finish (paint?) on the metal trim near the top of the case would not come off so I left alone what little could be seen. Faint gold tone color can be seen here and there if given sufficient light but not worth more recovery work to me as it seems to fit the overall condition of the clock. The following is a more detailed description of the clock with photos as it looks today.

E. Ingraham Company produced many clocks during the early 1900s in Bristol, Connecticut. Their company catalog No. 33 (1905-1906) contains approximately 130 clock styles including mine on page 43. From the label on the back of the clock, I found that the clock is a BETA. The style is listed as BETA and a description from their catalog is shown in Figure 3.

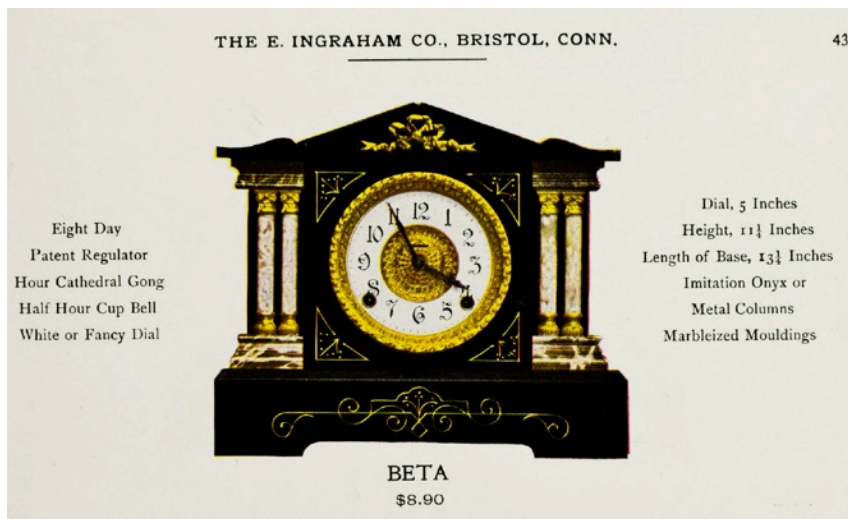
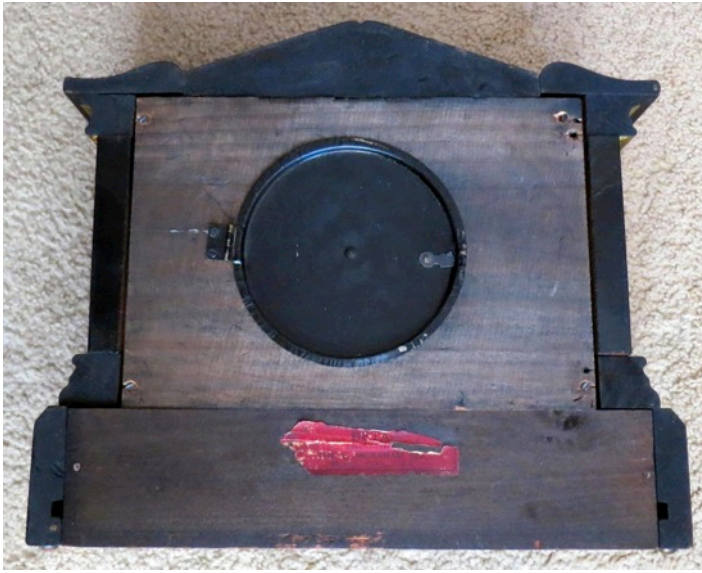


Figure 3. BETA description from E. Ingraham Catalog No. 33 (1905-1906).



Figure 4. Front of clock used for cake model.



Figures 5 and 6. E. Ingraham case back with label.



Figure 7. Side oblique view showing marbilized moulding.



Figure 8. E. Ingraham BETA dial



Figure 9. E. Ingraham dial inscription.

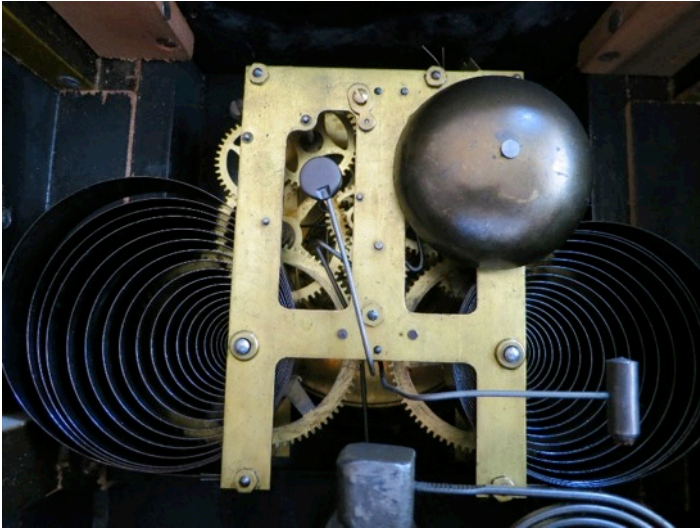


Figure 10. E. Ingraham bell/gong movement in BETA model.



Figure 11. Rear view inside case showing hole in base for pendulum bob access.

2015 Ward Francillon Time Symposium

This year's Ward Francillon Time Symposium will be held in Houston on October 22-24. Activities will begin on Thursday evening, with the opening program. This year's topic is "Mechanical Music & Marvels." Presentations will cover the history and development of clockwork operated devices. The many topics discussed will include historical information, musical clocks, automatons, disc and cylinder music boxes, bird boxes and whistlers, Black Forest clocks, musical clock movements played on bells, early spring operated phonographs and gramophones, and music composed for these devices. There will be a panel discussion concerning what to look for or avoid when purchasing a musical mechanism. And as an added bonus, on Saturday there will be tours of two large private collections!

The \$225 pre-registration fee includes the Friday evening banquet and Saturday box lunch at one of the homes on the tour, as well as transportation for the tours. You may register online at www.NAWCC.org or by printing and completing the form on page 9 of this newsletter.

Presentations include the following:

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Opening program – The History of Music Boxes

Friday presentations begin at 8:00 a.m.

- Toys for Kings & Queens, & Marvels of Mechanical Music
- Black Forest Clocks
- Musical Clock Movements Played on Bells
- Lunch
- Automatons
- Bird Boxes and Whistlers
- Cylinder Music Box Comb Progression
- Panel Discussion on what to look for and avoid when buying clockwork devices
- Banquet at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday presentations from 8:00 a.m. until departure for the home tours where lunch will be provided.

- Musical Clocks
- Music Composed for Musical Clocks
- Early Spring Operated Phonographs & Gramophones

Upcoming events

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, and Event Name/Location. Rows include events for October 9-10, 10, 18, 22-24, November 7, 13-15, 14, 15, December 12, and December.

*Location: All Tech Sessions and classes 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

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, 426 Overlook Drive, Friendswood TX 77546. 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.



The 2015 NAWCC WARD FRANCILLON TIME SYMPOSIUM

Mechanical Music & Marvels

October 22-24, 2015 in Houston, Texas

Covering the history and development of clockwork operated devices. Topics will include historical information, musical clocks, automatons, disc & cylinder music boxes, bird boxes & whistlers, Black Forest clocks, musical clock movements played on bells, early spring operated phonographs & gramophones, and music composed for these devices. Additionally, a panel discussion concerning what to look for and avoid when purchasing a musical mechanism will be held. As a bonus, the

Symposium will include tours of two large private collections.

Hotel information: Houston Marriot Westchase, 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas 77042 (713) 978-7400. Special NAWCC rate of \$99 plus applicable taxes. Call hotel directly for NAWCC rate.

Registration Form

Name: _____
Guest Name: _____
Address: _____
City: State Zip code _____ Telephone number: e-mail: _____

Full Symposium Registration: Includes all lectures, banquet, bus tours, and lunch on Saturday

Before September 19, 2015: \$200 x _____ = _____

After September 19, 2015: \$225 x _____ = _____

Friday Only (includes banquet) _____ x \$150 per person = _____

Saturday Only (includes bus & lunch) _____ x \$150 per person = _____ Total Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____

Are you a member of: NAWCC _____ MBSI _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions? _____

Do you have a disability that requires special attention? _____

Cutoff date for advanced registration is September 19, 2015. Confirmations will be sent to all attendees.

Please make checks payable to: NAWCC and mail together with this form to:

Pat Holloway, 1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660

General Questions: Sandy Cranfill, Chair (504) 888-9909 * swcranfill@yahoo.com

Please visit www.nawcc.org for further information or to register online.