

LONE STAR  NEWS

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NAWCC "Chapter of the year" Award—2005, 2001, 1998 and 1996
Chapter #124 Home Page URL: <http://www.chapter124.com>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

If you missed the last one day, you really missed out on a good opportunity to hear **Mark Vozar's** first lecture. Mark described the methodology for replacing a lantern pinion cap. Who would have known that Mark was such a comedian? His list and use of the "fine adjustment tools" was really a hoot. Thanks to Mark for the education and the laughs.

We got back to our roots for this one day by starting the morning off with a little buying and selling of watches, clocks, tools and parts. Actually, I think we spent about as much time catching up with friends. After the educational we had a nice catered lunch.

As you may know, we have been trying to develop a relationship with the Grapevine folks and have offered to place clocks in the train station museum. They have not responded well to our offers, so we have decided to approach them from a different perspective. We have proposed the possibility of setting up a street clock. We just happen to have a street clock, but it is in need of repair as it took a pretty good hit from a cement mixer. We would like to take it on as a chapter project, but we need someone to take the lead. We are willing to spend the money required to bring the clock back to its original condition. Please let me know if you would be willing to champion the effort.

Regional plans are starting to take form. Again this year, **Mark Vozar** is our convention chairman and he will need plenty of volunteers to make the regional a success. I know he has plans for another shotgun start on Friday and some changes to the unloading program for Thursday. We are planning to have an auction again this year but we don't have access to a cache of clocks for the auction. The auction is more exciting when we have clocks changing owners, so we would like to know if you know of someone that needs to sell a small collection.

Make plans to attend the Tri-chapter one day in Lockhart, Texas on the 18th of October. It's a bit further drive than the Waco show but it will give you a chance to visit the Southwest Clock Museum.

In closing, I would like to update you on our progress with updating the By-Laws. **Fred Tischler** has been busy capturing ideas from the board and working out a proposal to change the makeup of the board, terms, nominations and requirements for service. The proposal was presented to the board and it was approved for presentation to the chapter for approval. I'm personally excited about the changes and the opportunity it can provide to prospective board members.

Sincerely,

Phil Ball
President



OCTOBER IN THIS
2008 ISSUE

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Upcoming Events

- October 18, 2008
Tri-Chapter One Day
Lockhart, TX
- October 30-November 1, 2008
Arkansas Razorback
Fort Smith, AR
- December 14, 2008
Holiday Party
Evelyn & Hugh
Slough's
Duncanville
- January 10, 2009
One Day Mart &
Educational
Grapevine, TX
- March 6-7, 2009
Lone Star Regional
Mesquite, TX

**Directions to
Grapevine One Day
Show & Classes**

Take HWY 114 to Grapevine. Exit on South Main heading North to Downtown Grapevine at the railroad tracks. Turn right into the parking lot with the historical railroad depot and museum. The address is 701 South Main and the place is the Founders' Building.



Early Texas Time Keeping

by Fred Tischler

Early Texas History

Prior to Texas becoming a state, it was a vast, undeveloped frontier controlled by the French and Spanish. In the early 18th century, the French colonized Louisiana and developed New Orleans as a trade center. In San Antonio, 500 miles to the west, the Spanish built a mission known today as the Alamo. The Comanche and Apache Indians provided the Spanish with a hostile place to live during this colonization period. The area was so sparse in 1821, that only three outposts of civilization existed between the Rio Grande and Red Rivers.

In 1823, American settlers coming to Texas established San Felipe on the banks of the Brazos River, and these new “Texians” settlers, as they called themselves, lived under Mexican rule. In 1836, they defeated the Mexican Army at San Jacinto and created the Republic of Texas¹. When the US Congress officially accepted Texas as the 28th state in February 1846, less than one-half the population could read. Education and time keeping were not a prerequisite for obtaining the necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and protection against Indians and lawless neighbors. Although a public school system was established in 1854, it was not until 1869 that the Texas Constitution provided free public schools for all children.

First Texas Clocks Came with the Immigrants

By 1848, Galveston had been established as a major seaport of Texas, and from 1840 to 1870 a large German and Czech population immigrated here and it is believed that clocks were part of their furnishings. It is also believed that during this same period, East Coast manufactured clocks entered through Galveston to satisfy what little demand there was then for time keeping.

Some Early Clock Salesmen were not liked

Most pioneers were simple, unsophisticated and honest people, and consequently were vulnerable to aggressive and not so honest salesmen. In the mid-1850s, settlers were plagued by clock peddlers who used ingenious methods to induce families to buy clocks they had little use for, or did not want. When a salesman asked a settler whether they wished to buy a clock, the answer was usually, “No!” He then asked for permission to leave a clock with instructions on how to keep it running until he returned in a week or so. Some families would become accustomed to the timepiece, feeling that they could not do without it, and would buy the clock; lacking cash, the salesman often gave them “a note for thirty dollars or so,” payable in several months. Such a clock was hardly worth a third that price. The clock peddlers would rarely return, but would send their agent to collect the money. These honest pioneers usually always paid the amount specified on the note. As a result, clock peddlers became extremely unpopular, and as most of them were from New England, settlers developed a strong prejudice against Yankees².

In 1853, the first 20 miles of railroads were constructed in Texas, and by 1859 the Menger Hotel was opened in San Antonio. A large, black, double dial Seth Thomas³ clock prominently stood in the lobby for guests and visitors, not only to check their pocket watch time, but also to read the day and date. Texas Governor Pease, who served six terms from 1853 to 1869, is believed to have obtained a tall case clock for the governor’s mansion. The case was made in Austin of metal covered wood and housed a two weight German movement⁴.

Railroads Demanded Accurate Time Keeping

Texas saw tremendous growth in trade and commerce from 1860 to 1890, and the need for time keeping grew as nearly 8500 miles of railroad had been constructed and population spread to remote areas of the state. The telegraph was improved since its first demonstration in 1844, enabling the transmission of electric signals to any city willing to pay for the service. Usually the recipients of the signal were the prominent jewelers who displayed the time in their shop window for those few people with watches to check their time. Standard times zones were not established and most every locality set its own time by the sun. Railroads tried to make their schedules simpler by establishing railroad time along sections of their route. In 1883, since there were so many different railroad times, the US was divided into the four standard times zones we use today. All of Texas was under the same time zone.

Texas Has a Lot of Courthouses with Clocks

Texas was divided into 254 counties all with courthouses, sometimes called “Little Capitals.” Since there were very few clocks in early Texas, the courthouse clock soon became a feature upon which the largely agricultural society was dependent, and the courthouse clock was considered an integral part of their every day life. Historically, tower clocks in Texas courthouses became an important part of the social and political life of the community, for a large number of the settlers did not own timepieces. When new courthouses were constructed, provisions and money were included for an outside clock to please the taxpayers. The first three courthouse clocks were installed in the 1870s, and since then a total of 104 courthouses have been erected with tower clocks. The majority of these movements were manufactured by Seth Thomas and E. Howard and installed before 1900. Over the years, most of these clocks have had the winding mechanism electrified, and by the late 1900s there were only 49 Texas courthouse clocks remaining⁵. However, recent trends have seen some of these old clocks refurbished and reinstalled either in the courthouse towers or in a conspicuous place where the movements can be seen.

References: 1. James Jessep, *The Texas Cabinet making industry of the 19th Century*. 2. Mary Fendley, *Odd Facts*, p83. 3. Martha Tips, *NAWCC Bulletin #258*, p3. 4. J Harris St. Clair, *NAWCC Bulletin #222*, p86. 5. Jim West, *NAWCC Bulletin #252*, p53. Written by Fred Tischler: National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Silver Star Fellow.

APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR LONE STAR CHAPTER 124, NAWCC

An educational group dedicated to preserving and understanding horology.

Complete and send with applicable check made payable to: Lone Star Chapter #124
 To Gene Meysenburg gm1000@prodigy.net, 11028 Creekmere, Dallas, TX 75218

Please PRINT:

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ (Please check appropriate blank.)

Check appropriate box: *Dues are \$10 per year.*
 New #124 Member Yrs @ \$10 =
 Renew my membership Join/renew for 1-5 years

NAME _____ NAWCC # _____

STREET _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-mail: _____

I'm most interested in _____

To join Chapter #124, you must be an NAWCC member, or have applied for NAWCC membership. Have you applied for National membership, but haven't gotten a membership number? Check here _____. (Date of your application/check to National.)

Grisham to Speak at Francillon Symposium

Marybess Grisham will give a presentation on the Self Winding Clock Co. at the annual Ward Francillon Symposium on October 24, 2008. This year's symposium will be held in Springfield, IL, and will focus on electrical horology. Grisham will share her many years of experience and research into the development and success of one of America's most unique clock manufacturers.

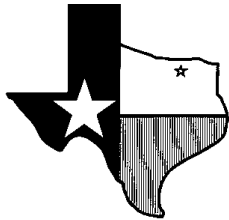
Springfield, IL was chosen for the symposium, because it was the home of the Sangamo Electric Company, which manufactured electrically wound and synchronous clocks from 1926 to 1931. The Sangamo Clocks are considered to be one of the highest quality electric clocks ever made.

Upcoming Education Classes

Location for Classes: Founders' Building, 701 South Main, Grapevine, TX
 Check Chapter 124 Website @ www.chapter124.com for any changes or updates.
 (*Note: Time of classes is normally 9 am to 5 pm)

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
Wood Clock Case Restoration I	October 4-5, 2008	\$60	Craig Burgess 817-427-4104
Repair and Replacement of an American Strip Recoil Escapement	October 11-12, 2008	\$60	Fred Tischler 972-985-0855 John Erickson-Registrar
Kitchen Clock Repair 100	October 25-26, November 1-2, 2008	\$120	Mark Vozar 817-399-9894
Chime Clock Repair 300	November 8-9, 15-16, 2008	\$120	Phil Ball and Mark Vozar 972-889-9338
Jewelers Lathe I	January 17, 2009	\$30	Bill Andrle & Russ Aikins 254-715-3820
Time & Strike Clocks With Spring Barrels NAWCC FSW F102	January 24-27, 2009	\$275	Fred Tischler 817-399-9894 Mark Vozar-Registrar
Spring Barrel Clock Repair 200	February 7-8, 14, 2009	\$90	Phil Ball & Mark Vozar 972-889-9338

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October 2008



Phil Gregory teaches a class in Reverse Painting on Glass at Karen Summerville's studio.



Peter Crum observes the beat of his clock in the Kitchen Clock Repair 100 Class, as Hugh Slough assists.

CLASSIFIEDS

Atmos Clock Repair & Complete Restoration

AWCI Trained
 Floyd Ennis 972-436-5724
 One Year Warranty on all Labor

6-2009

Your **SHERLINE** Dealer

Lathes—Mills—Accessories
 Pete Cronos
 ZIPPOMAN @USA.COM
 PETESWATCHES.COM

11-2008

CLOCK PARTS MADE NEW OR REPAIRED

Wheels, pinions, barrels, etc.


◆ Richard Cox, CMC, CMBHI (29585) ◆
 FENDLEY & COX'S CLOCK SHOP
 1530 Etain Road—Irving, TX 75060
 972-986-7698

6-2009

Welcome New Members!

Ken Cotter	Lewisville, TX
Greg Cunningham	Forney, TX
Ronnie Mathis	Grapevine, TX
Charles M. Whitaker	Dallas, TX

Mark Your Calendar for Holiday Party!!!

 Evelyn and Hugh Slough have graciously offered to host Chapter 124's Holiday Party at their home in Duncanville. The gathering will be held on Sunday, December 14th from 2-5 pm. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring finger food (finger sandwiches, chips & dip, fruit or cheese & crackers) to share. N-Z should plan on bringing desserts to share. Details and driving directions will follow in the December Newsletter and on www.chapter124.com.

The Lone Star News is mailed to all Chapter 124 members at no cost. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$8.00 per year. Mail subscription requests with payment to: Editor, Lone Star News, 1426 Hollywood Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75208. Checks payable to: Lone Star Chapter #124.

Printed or typed ad copy must reach Editor by November 3, 2008 for inclusion in the December 2008 NEWSLETTER. Must include your name, address and NAWCC number! Send to Editor, 1426 Hollywood Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75208. Include check to "Lone Star Chapter #124" in the amount of \$5 per issue. Ads are "business card" sized.