

Lone Star Times

NAWCC Chapter 124 Grapevine, Texas

"An educational group dedicated to preserving and understanding horology"

October 2011 Volume 28 Number 3 Current Membership 511

Chapter of the Year 2010~2005~2001~1998~1996

www.chapter124.com

President's Message

Hello Chapter 124 Members and Friends,

It has been a hot summer, but it looks like cool weather is on the way. If we can just get some rain, we will be in great shape. Our chapter has been very busy this summer and now is the time to start planning for the upcoming Regional in March of 2012.

The Railroad Watch and Clock museum in Grapevine, Texas is coming together. We are working with the city of Grapevine to put a Railroad Watch and Clock museum in the new Convention and Visitors Bureau Building. **Bill Edwards and Kelsey Downum** have created a survey asking our members if they would be willing to loan, donate, or give Railroad items for the museum display. We are getting a lot of response from the membership. If you have not sent in your survey to **Kelsey Downum**, please do so.

Our newsletter is going Green and I think you will really be happy with the changes that are being made to the newsletter. **Peter Crum** is doing a beautiful job on making our newsletter come alive. We will be able to add more articles, lots of colored pictures and articles from our membership. If you would like to see something in our newsletter, please feel free to send it to **Evelyn Slough** at eve.slough@sbcglobal.net or to **Peter Crum** at pj.crum@yahoo.com. We want our newsletter to be the best one out there.

Chapter 124's Board is upgrading our old Website and giving it a new look. The current Website was designed in 1996 and we want to bring it into the twenty-first century. **Ronnie Mathis, Clinton Kleen** and **Gene Meysenburg** are in charge of getting the website upgraded. They have brought **Kelsey Downum, Michael Corolla** and **Peter Crum** on board to help with the new look. They are looking for an experienced web designer who would be willing to take on this responsibility. Please contact **Ronnie Mathis** at rmathis@sewell.com or **Clinton Kleen** at ckleen98@hotmail.com.

Kelsey Downum, our educational director, has had a lot of requests for more classes for Chapter 124 in the 2012 year. **Kelsey** is also working on developing more instructors, innovating new educationals and improving our old classes. In order to accomplish this, we need to be on the lookout for new places to hold our educationals and classes.



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Bella's Traveling Library Project has been ongoing since October of 2009. We are booked through November of 2011 and are continuing to look for libraries. If you have a library in your area with a locked display case, please let **Hugh Slough** at hslough@sbcglobal.net know and he will bring **Bella's Library Exhibit** to your area. Please look in your closets or attics and see if you have an old clock, tools, or anything clock related that you would like to display in the library project. It needs to be presentable and does not have to run. If you are willing to loan or donate to Bella's library, please call **Hugh** and he will come and get it.

We have obtained a professional auctioneer for the March, 2012 Regional and are looking for clocks and watches to auction. We have had great auctions in the past and want to continue to do so. If you know of someone, who wants to dispose of their collection, please let us know. We will come and pick them up, catalog and put pictures out on the web for members to see. Contact **Bruce Wooldridge**, Chair of the Auction committee. Bruce's email is bawool@suddenlinkmail.com or phone **1-903-571-3093**.

The NAWCC is working on a Youth and Student Membership for the NAWCC as well as our local chapters. If you have a young person in your family between the ages of 1 to 17, or a Student between the ages of 18 and older, then let's sign them up and get them started with clocks and watches. The young people of today are our future of tomorrow.

Our **Annual Chapter Picnic** was held on **Saturday, September 17th** at 5:00 pm. **Chuck and Marion Edwards** hosted the picnic for Chapter members and their families. The chapter provided the meat and drinks while the members brought a dish to share. There was swimming and games, as well as "show and tell". We all had a great time and Lone Star Chapter 124 really appreciates Chuck and Marion for hosting our annual picnic.

October 20, 2011 Fred Tischler will present "**The History of Clocks**" for the Grapevine Library, located at 1201 Municipal Way, Grapevine, Texas 76051. We would love to see all of you there.

As your Chapter President, I attended Chapter 80's One Day in Plainview, Tx, and had a great time. Chapter 124 donated a couple of door prizes to Chapter 80. One of the door prizes was a Martha Tip's book titled "**Tips On Identifying and Appraising Clocks**". I also won one of the door prizes, a beautiful wall clock. given by one of the vendors. The vendors had a wonderful selection of clocks to sell and at very good prices. My daughter and I found several to take home with us. **Thank you, Chapter 80 and Herb and Esther Wallace** for making us feel so welcomed.

The regional will be here before you know it! Mark your calendar now and **save the first weekend in March for the 2012 Regional for Lone Star Chapter 124.**

Evelyn Slough



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Friends To The Rescue

Stuff, stuff, stuff, and more stuff. When will it end? I came to the realization after my neck surgery this past January that I would never finish all the "good intention" projects that I had planned to do. That's when the "thinning of the herd" began.

After listening to the call for auction items for the regional I thought well maybe an opportunity had arrived. Then I heard they had decided to break up the auction into two nights in lieu of the one. Well, that sort of took the wind out of my sail because I thought I had plenty of time to organize everything and prepare things myself. "Do it yourself Russ" couldn't do it because my surgeon said "don't lift anything over 10#". Well, that just about eliminates a good Texas hamburger no less.

That is when Bruce Wooldridge came to the rescue and let me know in no certain terms that "they will take care of everything" and I would not have to lift a finger. Well, it was almost embarrassing to let someone do all of the work, let alone letting someone see my garage, that has never been used as a garage.

Well, I finally agreed and a date was set for Bruce and his team to show up. Well, I have never seen guys work so hard, not since the farming days, on a hot day. Bruce Wooldridge, Joe Richards, and Mike Granderson carried, moved, boxed, and loaded a trailer full of my stuff that day and drove an hour and a half back to White House, TX to unload it in a storage unit. From there they proceeded to sort, catalog, and batch up everything that you saw at our chapter's June meeting. This took over a month to accomplish.

Then the great finale, the day of the sale, they loaded everything up again before the chickens were up and headed to Grapevine where they unloaded, and conducted the sale. Wow! That's all the words that I can come up with. These guys worked their tails off getting everything just right and everything fell into place. I take my hat off and salute all of you who helped and worked in this effort. You have no idea the impact that it makes on our chapter of all the hard work that our volunteers do, and most of the time, it goes quietly unnoticed, because we are so busy with the bidding or enjoying whatever the activity happens to be. But this time I happen to be the recipient of a lot of hard work done by some very good people who ask for nothing in return. Thank you my friends! You warm my heart for all that you do for Chapter 124.



Russ Atkins



Lucy

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Dates to Remember

October 20, 2011 **Fred Tischler** will present **"The History of Clocks"** at 7:00pm for the Grapevine Library, Grapevine Texas.

March 2-3, 2012 **Lone Star Chapter 124 Regional**

Educational Classes

Note: The Registrar for all classes will be Kelsey Downum unless otherwise stated. You may reach **Kelsey** by emailing downumk@gmail.com or phone **817-739-1543**. Check **Chapter124's website** www.chapter124.com to confirm all dates and classes. All classes will be held at the Founders' Building, 701 South Main, Grapevine, Texas unless otherwise stated.

- **October 22, 23, 29, 30, 2011** – 9 AM – 5 PM – **CR 300 Chiming Clock Repair Course**. Instructor: Phil Ball (972-889-9338) or phball@tx.rr.com Tuition is \$120.
- **November 5, 2011** – 9 AM – 5 PM – **Open Bench Workshop**. \$10 Registration at the door. For info contact **Mark Vozar** at 817-399-9894 or msvoze@sbcglobal.net Pizza furnished for lunch.
- **November 10-13, 2011** - **November 10-13, 2011** – **FSW F301A Pocket Watch Repair Course**. Instructor: Ferdinand Geitner. **Registrar: Bill Andrie** (1-254-715-3820) or bandrie@brazoselectric.com Tuition is \$300.
- **January 7, 2012** – **One Day**- Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.
- **January 8, 2012** – **Jewelers Lathe Class** – Founders Building, Grapevine
- **January 14, 15, 21, 22, 2012** **Kitchen Clock Class** – Founders Building
- **February 11-12, 2012** - **Strip Recoil Escapement**
- **February 18, 2012** – **Open Bench** (Kitchen Clock Skills) Founders Building
- **March 2-3 2012 Chapter 124 Regional**

Chapter One Day Meetings scheduled:

October 8, 2011 began at 8:00 AM, we will have a Mart with tables being first come first served with donuts and coffee provided. An educational titled **"Elgin Watches on the Internet: Information-Buying-Repair Help"** was given by **Clinton Kleen**. Registration is \$10, which includes the Mart and a Buffet Lunch. Location: The Founders' Building, 701 South Main, Grapevine, Texas.

*Summer Picnic at Chuck
& Marion Edward's*



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GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

Pam and Fred Tischler

The Mechanical Music & Horology Tour of the Jura Region

Members of the Music Box Society International and Chapter 179, the Educational Travel Chapter, took a two-week tour of the Jura Region of Switzerland (CH) and France from August 28 to September 10. Of the 26 travelers, there were eight Chapter 124 members (including the tour director) attending who had a fantastic time seeing some of the most outstanding private and public collections in Europe.

The tour was organized around three mechanical genres including Horology, Music Boxes and Automaton. Each day of the tour was filled with visits to museums, private collections, studios and workshops primarily in the Jura Mountains, with a major highlight of the trip being a two day mechanical music festival in Oingt, France. A summary of the places visited is given below:

Musée International d'Horlogerie in La Chaux-de-Fonds, CH, is a public clock and watch museum containing very important items located in an area of Switzerland where this industry first started, and still has several watch companies actively designing and manufacturing devices today. The museum had an outstanding variety of timepieces including watches, clocks, tools and astrological devices from the earliest times to modern art décor renderings. Items very well organized and displayed.

Musée d'Horlogerie du Locle is a municipal museum specializing in Horology. It is located in a small historic country manor house, called 'Château des Monts', in Le Locle, CH, a short distance from La Chaux-de-Fonds. The core of the museum collection is made up of three important legacies displayed in a home décor style:

- Swiss-made automatons from the 18th and 19th century, including mechanical music or singing bird automatons.
- A collection of marquetry clock cases by Charles André Boulle in the Louis XIV era.
- A collection focusing on the history of the Neuchâtel region style clocks.

The group was given a private tour of 'Château des Monts' and its artifacts.

Zytgogge Astronomical Clock built in a landmark medieval tower in the Old Town of Bern in the early 13th century; the tower has served the city as a guard tower, prison and a clock tower. The clock has undergone many renovations in its 800 years of existence and is one of Bern's most recognizable symbols.

Museum of Timepieces and Mechanical Music Instruments in Obernhofen, CH. All items in this museum are on loan from individuals and are housed in a 500 year old site with eight rooms full of antiques made up of old time pieces, mechanical music instruments and automata, specifically:

- Turret clocks, wall clocks, organ clocks, pocket and wristwatches
- Musical boxes, barrel organs, an orchestrion and an electric piano
- An antique watchmaker's workshop with old benches, machines and tools

An outstanding collection, with a private tour, was given by a Swiss collector.

The Museum of Music Automaton in Seewen, CH, houses one of the largest and most famous collections of its kind and all items are from Dr. Weiss-Stauffacher's private collection. It features Swiss music boxes, disc music boxes, clocks, watches and jewelry, as well as other music automatons. The group was given a private tour.

Museum of Mechanical Music in the small ski village of Les Gets, FR. This quaint collection is made up of 550 somewhat unique mechanical devices that include: musical picture clocks, musical boxes; street organs, player pneumatic pianos, automatic accordions and violins, harmoniums, orchestrion, gramophones, and mechanical juke-boxes. This private tour was in French; however, our tour director translated.

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Pam and Fred Tischler
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Mechanical Music Festival in the small medieval village of Oingt, France, located in the heart of the Beaujolais wine region during harvest. This two-day festival completely engulfed the 1000 year old hill top town with local, regional and international visitors dressed in period costumes singing and dancing to the hundreds of mechanical music instruments stationed throughout village. A happy event with lots of good French food and wine to drink!

Christian Bailly's Home Studio & Workshop in Ste. Croix, CH. A very valuable private collection of many outstanding automatons displayed as accessories in the home. A private tour and demonstration by Christian of items he designed and built, such as the mechanical bird trainer, and a jeweled gold and ebony walking cane with a watch and singing bird in the top. Truly an outstanding experience!

CIMA Museum of Clocks & Automated Musical Instruments in Ste Croix. This museum (Centre International de la Mécanique d'Art) is solely dedicated to music boxes and mechanical music with some clocks and watches. It exhibits the history of mechanical music with objects ranging from singing birds to music boxes to the cylinder phonograph invented by Thomas Edison. A private tour for the group was provided.

Reuge Music Box Factory in Ste Croix, CH. The factory was formed in 1865 and has operated continuously since. The tour group had the opportunity to see the precision parts manufactured for music boxes including those with singing birds being made, assembled and tested. Certainly a unique experience.

Francois Junod's Studio & Workshop in Ste Croix, CH. Francois met the tour at his front door and escorted them through his amazing workshop showing all his current work and some from the past. He is a true genius at work and is the paramount maker of mechanical androids today which go for \$750K to \$2M each. He makes life sized mechanical androids that can walk, draw, and write or whatever with the most natural poise of the real character it represents. His workshop was spectacular, did not want to leave...wanted to stay and work for food!

Baud Museum of Mechanical Music & Automata in L'Auberson, CH. This Museum is a paradise for lovers of mechanical musical instruments. A unique collection created by a family of enthusiasts whose passion has also been their craft and profession for three generations. A family owner provided a guided tour of the exhibition, which contained 55 objects of pianos, fairground organs, music boxes and other mechanical instruments.

Museum of Art & History in Neuchatel, CH. The principle part of this museum is the three 18th century mechanical androids made by Jaquet Droz and son that still work as they did 240 years ago. Constructed between 1768 and 1774 by Pierre Jaquet-Droz and his son Henri-Louis; the androids were, The Writer (6000 parts), The Musician (2500 parts) and The Draftsman (2000 parts). These astonishing mechanisms fascinated the world's most important people: the kings and emperors of Europe, China, India and Japan. Our tour group was truly amazed with the opportunity to see and touch them.

Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva, CH, is a public museum with an extraordinary collection of watches, a few very unique clocks and automatons. This museum explores the roots of time-measurement through a timeline, which details the key events in watch making evolution from the antique creations of the 1500's, through the founding of Patek Philippe in 1839, and on to the present day. Perhaps, the most outstanding collection of historical watches in the world. A must see; however, photographs were not allowed.

We have been taking Horological trips since 1994 and this tour was certainly one that ranks among the best. We truly saw some outstanding historical collectors' items all nestled in a small beautiful geographical area of Switzerland. The only disappointment was that more of our Chapter 124 members did not make the trip with us. *Fred and Pam Tischler, September 2011*

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CLOCKS, ANDROIDS & MUSIC BOXES

IN FRANCE & SWITZERLAND

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY FRED & PAM TISCHLER



Le Locle Museum
The Bird Cage



Baud Museum
Musical Watch



Zytgogge Clock
Bern



Christian Bailly Studio
Picture Clock



CIMA Museum
Mechanical Piano



La Chaux de Fonds
Museum



Oberhofen Museum
18th Century Clock



Oberhofen Museum
Clock from 1587



Seewen Museum
Mechanical Organ



Oingt Festival Mechanical Organ



Oingt Festival in the Medieval City of Oingt, France



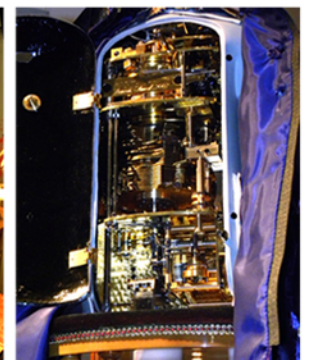
Jacquet Droz 1770's
Android, The Writer Mechanism



Christian Bailly Studio
The Bird Trainer and Mechanism



Francois Junod's Writer Android and mechanism
Sold for \$1 million



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GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

Ideas on Collecting by Jay Holloway

Most individuals involved with the NAWCC call themselves collectors. When we meet, the conversation generally begins with "What do you collect?" The traditional response is watches or clocks and everyone soon parts knowing whether this individual is a friend or foe who may want the same "important" piece you want.

In time collectors find the happy medium with their peers and enjoy helping each other find the treasures they are seeking. The real question we need to ask ourselves is "What are we collecting?" Yes, we may seek items in a general area such as watches or clocks but the true question is "What *are* we specifically collecting?"

As an appraiser, I have to recognize that there are many items people collect and the reasons they collect are just as varied. When a person approaches me on collecting, my obligation as an appraiser is to ask, why and what are they collecting. Are they collecting because they enjoy spending time seeking items that may just jump out at them and they buy because they like it? They have no goal other than to clutter their home and spend their heirs' inheritance (personally this is actually fun). Other people collect to furnish their home with items that bring them peace from reflecting on earlier times. Lastly, people collect to establish a group of items that have investment value. The value may be to buy and sell to others through various retail methods or to establish a treasured collection that will increase in value to provide their heirs a great nest egg.

Once a person recognizes why they are collecting, the collecting process becomes more fun and challenging. They now have a goal and a reason to enjoy the many NAWCC National, Chapter Regionals, One Day Marts, antiques shops, garage sales, and antique meets (Round Top/Warrenton in Texas, Brimfield in MA, etc.) Now to be at the top of your game the next step is to focus on what you are collecting. Determining what may be a challenge. Everyone can collect what everybody else collects but you are only joining the parade. Joining the parade at the end means you generally come up short. Do some research in an area of interest and seek out a niche. Please remember that a niche may be more gender specific. Women may find different areas that are interesting and exciting to them that most men have little interest.

Many niche areas are full of great items that most collectors walk by and see nothing - until they come to another person's home and see their treasure. Niche items may be easy to purchase without spending a great deal of money. You have to look for them because not everyone will carry these items. The looking is the fun in collecting. An example is my wife who collects pictures of people with watches or watch related items on their person. Most pictures cost less than \$5. but bring about an interesting dialog on who the unknown person was, what was their social level, what was the occasion, etc., and etc. Horological niche items may include: military watches, watch keys, fobs or case openers advertising a product or company, watch fobs, watch chains (different types), alarm clocks, advertising electric clocks, anniversary clocks, Christmas decorations with horological themes, or post cards, birthday cards, and seasonal cards with horological themes, just to begin a list.

In researching your niche, a person soon becomes a very knowledgeable individual because only a few people are experts in this area. One learns the prices, the quality levels, the many types and varieties of items in the niche. A person is able to recognize a bargain as well as a well priced quality item. A key is to make friends with individuals who may service such items. A hidden gem is the item that may be restored at a reasonable price to a great value. Many valuable items are missed when people do not understand what it requires to restore an item to value. The key of the message is when one has knowledge they are not afraid to collect because they recognize the value of the collectable. Now it is time to begin our "collection".

Jay



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Art & Time

TEXAS ARTISAN'S, CRAFTSMEN AND COLLECTOR'S WORK IN TIME

**LONE STAR CHAPTER 124 REGIONAL
MARCH 2ND AND 3RD, 2012**

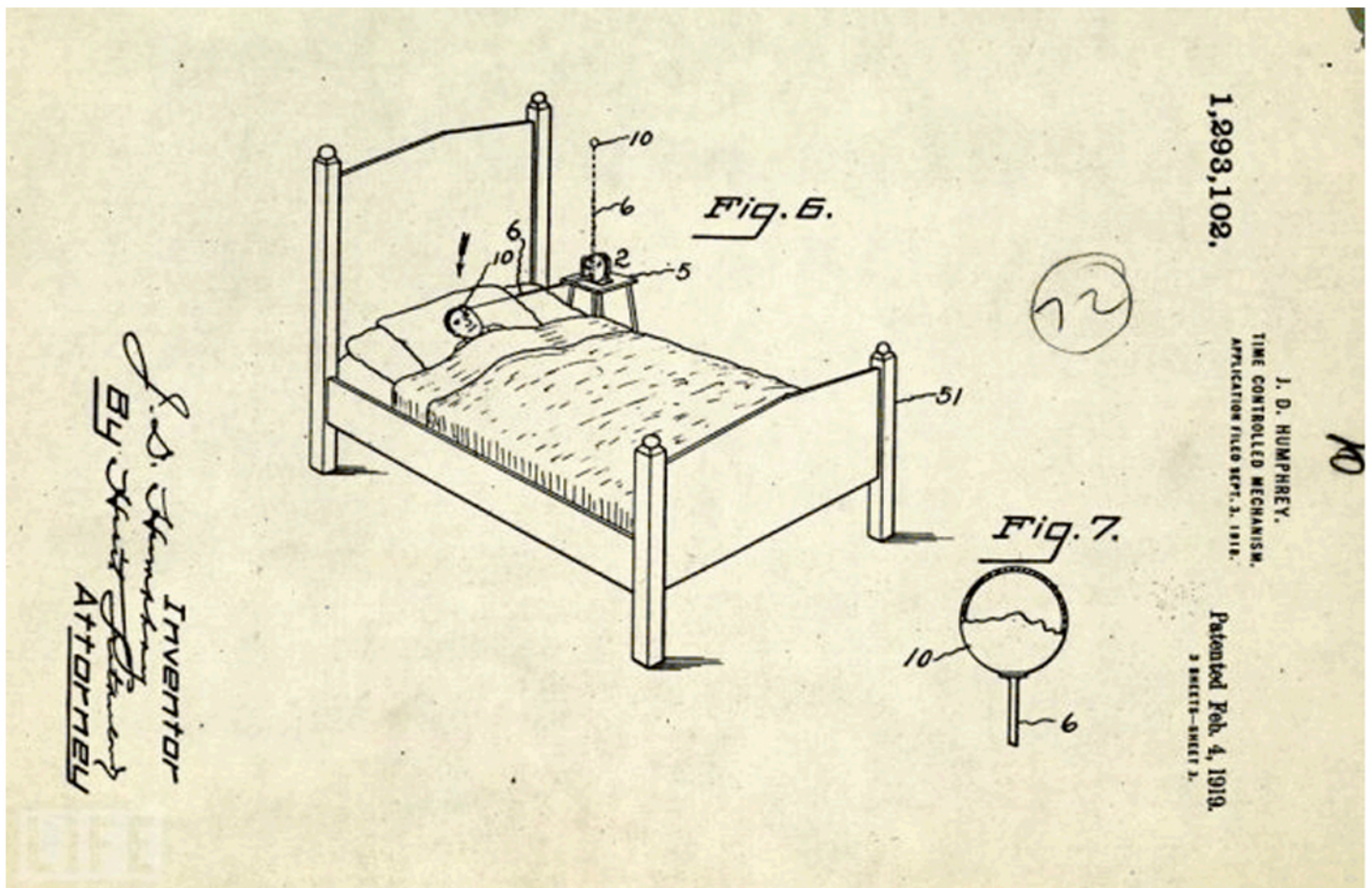
MESQUITE CONVENTION CENTER
MESQUITE, TX

LOOK FOR REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE JANUARY 2012
MART!

PRE-REGISTRATION AT 2010 PRICES

WWW.CHAPTER124.COM

INTERESTING FINDS



February 4, 1919 J.D. Humphrey's design for an "Alarm Clock" which wakes the sleeper with a blow to the forehead from a pivoted antennae released by the clock mechanism. Patent No. 1293102.
from Chuck Edwards

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CHAPTER INFORMATION

Auction Items Needed!

Clocks, Watches & Tools for our Regional Auction!

Please contact

Bruce Wooldridge at 903-571-3093 or 903-839-3386

or e-mail him at bawool@suddenlinkmail.com



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Board Members & Volunteer Staff

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12-2010





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 Ken Gaspar.....Dallas, TX
 Bruce Cook.....Texarkana, TX
 Stefani Curtis.....Wills Point, TX
 Thomas Hartory.....Irving, TX
 David Lee....Lake Forrest, IL
 Nick Lerescu.....Glenwood, NJ
 Ronald Shumway.....Dallas, TX
 David Threlkeld.....Arlington, TX
 Gene Glatfeller.....Paris, TX



WELCOME!



★ **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 11028 Creekmere, Dallas, TX 75218

Please PRINT:

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

NAME _____

NAWCC # _____

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Check appropriate box:

☐ New #124 Member

☐ Renew my membership

Dues are \$10 per year.

Yrs @ \$10 =

Join/renew for 1-5 years



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.)