

# Lone Star Times



NAWCC Chapter 124 Grapevine, Texas

*"An educational group dedicated to preserving and understanding horology"*

February 2012 **Volume 27 Number 5** Current Membership 536

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

[www.chapter124.com](http://www.chapter124.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Chapter 124 Members and Friends,*

**IT'S TIME!!!** Our **2012 Regional** is just around the corner. This will be one of Chapter 124's **BEST REGIONALS EVER!** It is time to pre-register and make your hotel reservations at the Hampton Inn & Suites! Our Regional has the largest Mart in Texas, as well as in the five state area. We will have lots of clocks, watches, and horological items, and there will be something for everyone. Our theme this year is **"ART & TIME."** We are bringing the past NAWCC Craft Entries by Texans to Mesquite, Texas. This will be a great way for everyone to see the entries our fellow chapter members have presented over the years. Lone Star Chapter 124 is well represented by Texas Artists.

Just wait until you see what we have planned for you! Mark your calendars to be in Mesquite, Texas on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2012.

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Workshop

**Mike Dempsey: "The Theory, Design, and Repair of the Deadbeat Escapement"**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 Educationals:

**Richard Cox: "A Skeleton Clock with Glass Plates"**

**Nick Lerescu: "Toys of the Czars-European & Russian Technology"**

**Nick Lerescu: "Horology along the Romantic Rhine (Spring 2013)"**

Art & Time

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





March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 Educational:

**John Schmieg: "Wood Working Technology"**

Meet the Texas Artists: **ART & TIME EXHIBIT**

**Richard Cox**  
**Phil Gregory**



**Karen Summerville**  
**Fred Tischler**

For information regarding **Mike Dempsey's Workshop: "The Theory, Design, and Repair of the Deadbeat Escapement,"** contact **Pam Tischler** at 972-612-0712 or email her at FSWProgram@verizon.net for information and registering for the Workshop. The fee is \$50.00. Space is limited, so register now.

*We will have two auctions this year. One on Thursday evening and the other one after the banquet on Friday evening. Jim Sargent, a licensed Auctioneer, will be the Auctioneer for the 2012 Regional Auctions. Bidder cards will be available at \$1.00 each.*

Our Regional banquet will be held on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the **Hampton Inn** is planning a **pre-party** for our banquet ticket holders. So register for the banquet and join us at the Hampton Inn. We have planned a great menu, which should please everyone.

**OUR DAVID TIPS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET ON MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>.**

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, our **Youth Members**, Bella Grimm, Ashton Edwards, Nick Tsigas and Richard Henz will be meeting and talking with Mart visitors. We are planning several things in the Mart for the Youth to participate in; as well as youth door prizes. Come and visit our youth table and bring your children and grandchildren.

Don't forget to renew your membership for the upcoming 2012 year. If you know of someone who would like to join, please sign them up or put them in touch with **Evelyn Slough or any Board member**. We will be glad to help in anyway.

*Evelyn Slough*





## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

In April, 2012, **Bella's Traveling Library Exhibit** will have a clock and watch exhibit at two libraries. One exhibit will be at the Allen Library located at 300 N. Allen Dr., Allen, Texas and the second exhibit will be at the Dallas' Fretz Park Branch Library located at 6990 Belt Line Rd., Dallas, Texas.

*April, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Fred Tischler will be presenting "The History of Clocks" to the Josey Ranch Lake Library located at 1700 Keller Springs Rd., Carrollton, Texas, from 6:30pm. to 8:30pm.*

April, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Fred Tischler will give a presentation of **"The History of Clocks"** at the Allen Library located at 300 N. Allen Dr, Allen, Texas, from 7:30pm. to 9:00pm.

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, **Old Fashion Vendor Mart** will be held at the Founders Building located at 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas from 8:00am till 2:00pm. **There will not be an auction or lunch.** Entry fee \$5.00. **Mark your calendars for a first.** Contact **Michael Corolla** at **972-251-9012** or email him at [macorolla@hotmail.com](mailto:macorolla@hotmail.com) **for information.**

June 2, 2012, **Annual Meeting** of Lone Star Chapter 124. The meeting will be held in the Founders Building located at 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Registration is \$10.00 and lunch will be provided.

June 13<sup>th</sup> thru June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 **NAWCC National Convention** will be held in the Pasadena Convention Center, 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, California 91101.

*See You there!*





### Louis XVI Ring with Calendar Mechanism

(Article by Richard Chadwick from VOX "The Antiquorum Magazine" No.2/2011)

*An exceptional and unique, Louis XVI, miniature calendar ring set with rose-cut diamonds, four hands from the center for the calendar indications of date, days of the week, months with number of days, signs of the zodiac and moon phases with lunar calendar was discovered recently in Paris.*

This unique ring with miniature calendar from the reign of Louis XVI [1754-1795] represents a very early example of a miniaturized calendar, some 35 years before Etienne Tavernier was making similar mechanisms for watch keys. The survival of the fitted box and original manuscript description is nothing short of miraculous. In 1777, this ring would have been seen as a marvelous curiosity and extremely expensive. The sumptuous diamond setting was intended to show it off to maximum effect and it is very likely to have been made with a member of the Royal family in mind. The making of the ring was collaboration between the watchmaker, Joseph-Simon Cousin, who was the watchmaker to the younger brother of Louis XVI, the Comte d'Artois (later Charles X) and Joseph Coteau, the most eminent French enameller of the 18th century. Signed and dated dials by Coteau are extremely rare; the fact that the dial of this ring is signed and dated further illustrates its importance and that Coteau



wished to be known as the maker of this dial for posterity. In his manuscript description, Cousin describes the ring as unique and therefore as far as he knew, nothing like it had been made before. It is ingeniously conceived and beautifully made. The hidden release catch to open the bezel is activated by pressing one of the diamonds and the hand-setting is achieved the same way, by pressing another diamond in the band. All four hands for the calendar indications are mounted from the center arbor for elegance of design. Both Louis XVI and his brother, the Comte d'Artois were very interested in horology. It is certainly quite possible that as Cousin's main patron, the Comte d'Artois, was intended to be the recipient of such an exquisite and exceptional curiosity, Cousin knowing that whoever wore this ring would attract the admiration and envy of many at court.

Dated 1777, Paris, Dim. 21 x 19 mm., diameter of shank 18mm. Sold in 2011 at Antiquorum for 43,750 CHF. Submitted to the Chapter 124 Newsletter by Fred Tischler \*NAWCC, with permission from the author.



## How to Determine the Age of a Connecticut Shelf Clock

by Kim St. Dennis

This article is a follow up to the program I gave at the Chapter # 75 November 2011 meeting on identifying the age of Connecticut Clocks. Connecticut & its Western Reserve was the main area of early American clock making and Bristol, Connecticut was its heart. Of course there were clock-makers in every state and territory in the United States, but the concentration of so many talented and ingenious clockmakers and businessman in and around the Bristol area is amazing. Starting with Eli Terry and the Porter Contract in 1807 and ending with the Session brothers in the 1970's, they produced millions of movements and cases over a span of 150 years. Some of the case styles were in production for years and it can be difficult to determine the age of a particular clock made during the 19th Century.

But there are clues we can look for on the clock, books and websites to help us narrow down the date range or even come up with an exact date. The clues in no particular order are as follows:

### **Labels or tablets:**

Paper labels or tablets give a good indication of how old a clock is and the possible dates of manufacturing. The first most obvious thing of course is

the manufactures name. But even this is not a final answer. I have several clocks in my collection, that were produced by the Atkins Clock Company, with labels from other companies. They include Waterbury (case only) and two (2) Daniel Pratt & Sons Clocks (cases and movements made by Atkins). There may even be a couple of Ansonia that were



made by Atkins. Tran Duy Ly's book "Ansonia Clocks & Watches" Second Edition 1998 has a "Drop Octagon" # 543 and a "Drop Octagon Round Corner" # 544 from Ansonia's 1874 catalog on bottom of page 168, that are listed in earlier Atkins catalogs by the same model names. I have not

seen these "Ansonia's" in the flesh, but have heard rumors of them in several on-line postings.

Another clue from these labels is the printers. A check of the local business registries or journals can help and/or census data. I know that this is a very good indication of date range of a clock manufacture. I am currently researching the printers who made labels for the Atkins Clock Co. and have so far indentified three (3) printers. A recent researcher was able to narrow down the date range of a particular model of clock just based on the printer alone. Same clock, different printed label

## How to Determine the Age of a Connecticut Shelf Clock

### CONTINUED

showed that they were manufactured years apart from one another.

#### Mounting of the movements to the case:

Here you have only two (2) choices to choose from Wooden Blocks or Metal Feet attached to the movement post. The consensus currently is that Metal Feet used in mounting movements to cases started circa 1880 to



1885. I cannot find any hard copy evidence to support this currently, like a patent or such. But the empirical evidence does support this view. I have seen an Ansonia Round Top Gothic with a Jewelers label dated 1874 that is wooden block mounted and have several circa 1880 to 1890 "Kitchen" clocks with metal feet mounted movements.

#### Dials, Hand Painter or Printed Paper:

Hand painted dials seem to have been the industry standard from the early 1800's right through to the 1870's. Printed paper dials were used quite a bit in the early 1800s, but were phased out within a few years. I believe this was a cost saving measure as printing was largely hand done in this era and it was cheaper to hire young girls to do this work. Also Roman Numerals on older hand painted dials are thinner than and not as heavy as the Roman Numerals of the later 19th Century.



#### Movement, pinned, screwed or bolted:

Here, we run into that magic date of circa 1880 to 1885 again. The current consensus is that pinned movements



(movement held together by taper pins) were phased out sometime between 1880 and 1885. Again we have no documented proof of this, but a lot of empirical evidence seems to support this conclusion. A number of higher grade movements were still held together with taper pins right through the 20th Century. Bolting a movement together with nuts started sometime in the late 19th Century and continues to this day. But using screws to secure the plates is the current standard for factory produced movements.

#### Clock Hands:

The use of the "club" hand started sometime in the 1840's and seems to have been phased out in the 1860's. I believe that they were made by a local clock hand maker in or around Bristol Connecticut as they show up on several different clockmakers clocks from that area. This style of hand is a dead giveaway that the clock dates from the 1840's to the 1860's and was made in the Bristol / Forestville area.

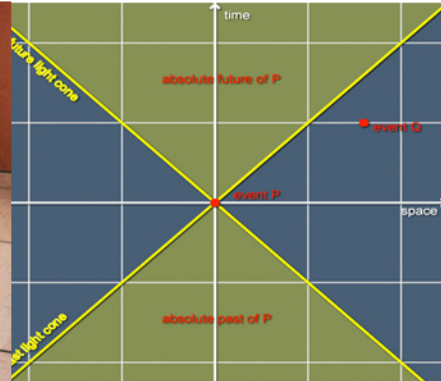
#### Striking only on the hour:

The striking wheel is a great way to ascertain the age of a clock movement. The Striking brass clocks produced in Connecticut from 1830 to 1885 were mostly hourly strikes only. I believe that this was probably due to poor quality springs and the cost of metal. There were some "hour/half hour" striking American made movements of the early 19th Century, but this feature does not seem to have caught

on. It is only in the last quarter of the 19th Century that the hour/ half hour striking clock were in vogue.



# .....The Ultimate Clock.....



In today's excerpt - the technology of our daily lives has become so advanced that the need for accuracy in clocks presses hard the most accurate of today's clocks - which are accurate to five parts per 100,000,000,000,000,000 (or five in  $10^{16}$ ). Improving this accuracy is absolutely necessary for such things as improved GPS navigation, improved satellite communication, and improved detection of faults in the massive communication networks we now depend on:

"Today those who would build a more accurate clock must advance into the frontiers of physics and engineering in several directions at once. They are cobbling lasers that spit out pulses a quadrillionth of a second long together with chambers that chill atoms to a few millionths of a degree above absolute zero. They are snaring individual ions in tar pits of light and magnetism and manipulating the spin of electrons in their orbits.

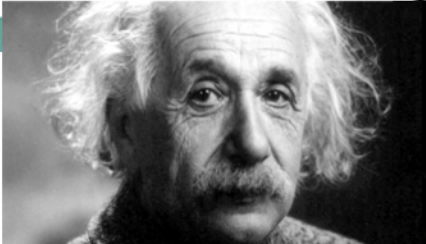
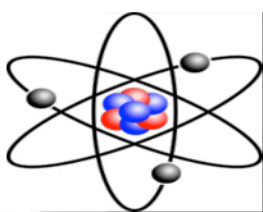
"And thanks to major technical advances, the art of ultra precise timekeeping is progressing with a speed not seen for 30 years or more. These days a good cesium beam clock, of the kind Symmetricom sells for \$50,000, will tick off seconds true to about a microsecond a month, its frequency accurate to five parts in  $10^{13}$ . The primary time standard for the U.S., a cesium fountain clock installed in 1999 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at its Boulder, Colo., laboratory, is good to five parts in  $10^{16}$  (usually written simply as  $10^{-16}$ ). That is 1000 times the accuracy of NIST's best clock in 1975. Successful prototypes of new clock designs - devices that extract time from calcium atoms or mercury ions instead of cesium - have recently attained accuracy in the  $10^{-18}$  range, a 100-fold improvement in a decade.

"Accuracy may not be quite the right word. The second was defined in 1967 by international fiat to be 'the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium 133 atom.' Leave aside for the moment what that means: the point is that to measure a second, you have to look at cesium. The best clocks now don't - so, strictly speaking, they don't measure seconds. That is one predicament the clock makers face.

"Further down the road lies a more fundamental limitation: as Albert Einstein theorized and experiment has confirmed, time is not absolute. The rate of any clock slows down when gravity gets stronger or when the clock moves quickly relative to its observer - even a single photon emitted as an electron reorients its magnetic poles or jumps from one orbit to another. By putting ultra precise clocks on the space station, scientists hope to put relativity theory through its toughest tests yet. But now that clocks have achieved a precision of  $10^{-18}$  - proportions that correspond to a deviation of less than half a second over the age of the universe - the effects of relativity have started to test the scientists. No technology exists that can synchronize clocks around the world with such exactness.

"So why bother to improve atomic clocks? The duration of the second can already be measured to 14 decimal places, a precision 1,000 times that of any other fundamental unit. ... More stable and portable clock designs could ... be a big boon to navigation, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of the Global Positioning System and of Galileo, a competing system under development in Europe. Better clocks would help NASA track its satellites, enable utilities and communications firms to trace faults in their networks, and enhance geologists' ability to pinpoint earthquakes and nuclear bomb tests. Astronomers could use them to connect telescopes in ways that dramatically sharpen their images. And inexpensive, microchip size atomic clocks are likely to have myriad uses not yet imagined."

Author: W. Wayt Gibbs  
 Title: "Ultimate Clocks"  
 Publisher: *Scientific American, Special Edition: A Matter of Time*  
 Date: Spring 2012  
 Pages: 62-63



# Art & Time

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

## AUCTION ITEMS



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

I recently found myself a couple of hours from Columbia, PA and decided to drive over to see the NAWCC Museum. I had a chance to meet the Publications Staff with whom I have a lot of interaction with with our advertisements and Mart publications. We had a lot of fun and I had a chance to listen to their ideas about the Museum. I now have some new & sympathetic friends.

I toured the Museum and saw some of the most beautiful clocks in the world. It is a truly inspiring place to be. The exhibits were beautiful and we will be getting some of their input for our projects.

The Found Time Exhibit was right up my alley. Being a designer, I can appreciate work like this. Some of it is pictured here.

Columbia is a very old city with lots of goodies. Do not miss the beef barley soup at Hinkli's Pharmacy. A must stop.

*Peter*



"Photos courtesy of NAWCC, Inc."



## CHAPTER INFORMATION



### Board Members & Volunteer Staff

President	Evelyn Slough	972-283-5560	<a href="mailto:eve.slough@sbcglobal.net">eve.slough@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice-President	Mike Granderson	903-849-3439	<a href="mailto:grand42@embarqmail.com">grand42@embarqmail.com</a>
Sec/Treas.	John Acker	972-571-0663	<a href="mailto:jsatex@att.net">jsatex@att.net</a>
Convention Dir.	John Erickson	972-985-0855	<a href="mailto:john.erickson7@verizon.net">john.erickson7@verizon.net</a>
Mart Director	Michael Corolla	972-251-9012	<a href="mailto:macorolla@hotmail.com">macorolla@hotmail.com</a>
Educational Dir	Kelsey Downum	817-739-1543	<a href="mailto:downumk@gmail.com">downumk@gmail.com</a>
Director at Large	Ronnie Mathis	214-725-0017	<a href="mailto:mathis@sewell.com">mathis@sewell.com</a>
Director at Large	Peter Crum	972-249-6049	<a href="mailto:pi.crum@yahoo.com">pi.crum@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Pam Tischler	972-612-0712	<a href="mailto:FSWProgram@verizon.net">FSWProgram@verizon.net</a>
Membership Chair & Web Master	Gene Meysenburg	214-328-1984	<a href="mailto:gm1000@prodigy.net">gm1000@prodigy.net</a>
News/Editor	Peter Crum	972-249-6049	<a href="mailto:pi.crum@yahoo.com">pi.crum@yahoo.com</a>
News/Publisher	Clinton Kleen	972-964-1490	<a href="mailto:ckleen98@hotmail.com">ckleen98@hotmail.com</a>

### Atmos Clock Repair & Complete Restoration

Floyd Ennis  
972-436-5724

AWCT Trained  
One Year Warranty on all labor.



### Clocks of Yore

Fred Tischler

Clock Repair~Clock Restoration~Educator

Shop located in Plano, Texas

972-612-0712

[www.clocksofyore.com](http://www.clocksofyore.com)

NAWCC Star Fellow

### Buying watchmakers inventory.

Old watches pocket or wrist, running or not, even incomplete ones. Also buying old cases. Good, worn or incomplete. Also tools, cabinets, material and watchmakers benches. I will travel to your location. Call or email Ron Starnes 918-845-5424 or [ronstarnes@cox.net](mailto:ronstarnes@cox.net)



### 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



### Sherline Lathes/Mills

Texas' only authorized dealer  
5% discount & Free shipping  
on lathes, mills any order over \$600

Simpler Time Clocks

Round Rock, TX (512) 788-5125

Mike Williams [Mike@simplertimeclocks.com](mailto:Mike@simplertimeclocks.com)

[SimplerTimeClocks.com](http://SimplerTimeClocks.com)

12-2010



# WELCOME!

John



Hugh



Ronnie Barcak, Tim Brownlee,  
Bruce Cook, Stefani Curtis,  
Tony Davis, Maynard Dean,  
Condron Francis, Roger George,  
Jerry Hicks, Dave Hill,  
John Hunt, David Lee,  
Nick Lerescu, Valerie Mc Keown,  
Thomas Pirtle, Cliff Raborn,  
Ronald R Shumway, Cathy Slough,  
David Threlkeld, Robert Turk,  
James Williams & Ted Wilson

Pam



John



Evelyn



Byron



Chuck



## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm most interested in \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

# LONE STAR CHAPTER 124



## Art & Time

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

### LONE STAR CHAPTER 124 REGIONAL MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2012

MESQUITE CONVENTION CENTER  
MESQUITE, TX

[WWW.CHAPTER124.COM](http://WWW.CHAPTER124.COM)



#### FRIDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

6:45...REGISTRATION OPENS

7:00...UNLOADING & SETUP

7:00...MART OPENS

9:00..."ART & TIME" EXHIBIT OPENS

10:00...TOYS OF THE CZARS- EUROPEAN  
& RUSSIAN TECHNOLOGY

BY: NICK LERESCU

11:30..."ART & TIME" EXHIBIT

WALK-THRU WITH THE PRESENTERS

1:00...SKELETON CLOCK WITH GLASS PLATES

BY RICHARD COX

2:30...HOROLOGY ALONG THE ROMANTIC RHINE  
(SPRING 2013)

BY NICK LERESCU

4:30...AUCTION PREVIEW

5:00...MART CLOSES

5:30...RECEPTION & BANQUET  
(TICKET REQUIRED)

7:30...AUCTION

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

7:30...REGISTRATION OPENS

8:00...MART OPENS

9:00-2:00...ART & TIME EXHIBIT OPEN

9:00...WOOD WORKING TECHNOLOGY

BY JOHN SCHMIEG

10:00...CHILDREN'S TABLE WITH  
CHRIS & CATHY

10:30...EXHIBIT WALK-THRU

12:00...GRAND DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

3:00...MART CLOSES...SECURITY ENDS

EDUCATIONALS ARE IN THE RIATA ROOM

