Lone Star Times

February 2013 **Volume 28 Number 4** Current Membership 504
Chapter of the Year 2010 - 2005 – 2001 – 1998 – 1996
www.chapter124.org

President's Message

Chapter 124 Members and Friends,

It's Time!!! Our **2013 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. We have great news for you, as we have a New **Website www.chapter124.org.** You may register on line at **Chapter124.org** or print off a registration form and register by mail. 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, "Let's Make a Deal" and the "Texas Clock and Watch Roadshow," as well as **Opening to the Public on Saturday.** We will also be bringing back the children's activities. There will be something for everyone! Our theme this year is **"Bonjour Y'all."** Our exciting exhibit is **"French Clocks"** and we are looking forward to everyone enjoying them.

Just wait until you see what we have planned for you. Mark your calendars to be in Mesquite, Texas on February 28th, March 1st, and 2nd of 2013.

February 28, 2013 – **Workshop**
Mike Dempsey: **"Horological Wheel & Pinion Cutting."**

March 1, 2013 Educationals:
Don Bugh: **"Moving a 1907 Seth Thomas Street Clock to Texas"**
Mike Dempsey: **"Unusual Clock Repairs"**
Fred Tischler & Bruce Wooldridge: **"French Clocks"**

March 2, 2013 Educationals:
Richard Cox: **"Making Unusual Clock Gears"**

For information regarding **Mike Dempsey's Workshop: "Horological Wheel & Pinion Cutting"**, contact **Pam Tischler** at **972-612-0712** or email her at FSWProgram@verizon.net for information and registering for the Workshop before the deadline of February 20th. The fee is $50.00.

Saturday, March 2nd, **"Texas Clock and Watch Roadshow"** will be new this year and there will be several things planned in the Mart for the Children and Youth to participate in. There will be door prizes for all. Come and visit our Children and Youth table and bring your children and grandchildren.

Jim Sargent is a licensed Auctioneer, who has agreed to be our Auctioneer for the 2013 Regional Auction. We have over 200 items we will be auctioning on Thursday and Friday evening (February 28th and March 1st). If you have any clocks, watches, tools, books or other horological items, you want in **one of our other auctions,** please contact Bruce Wooldridge. Bruce's email is bawool@suddenlinkmail.com and his phone number is 1-903-571-3093. We can always use Auction items!

Thursday, February 28th, there will be a social hosted by Chapter 124 prior to the auction for all. Our Regional banquet will be held on Friday, March 1st. We have planned a great menu, and several surprises, which should please everyone.

Tell your friends about the **New NAWCC Introductory Membership** offer to join for four months for $20. Anyone who takes advantage of the NAWCC four month membership will get a free four month trial membership to Chapter 124. This will allow them to attend our annual meeting. Bring a friend to the regional and sign him up.

Don't forget to renew your membership for the upcoming 2013 year. You may renew your membership online by going to our new website Chapter124.org or print a renewal form and renew by mail. 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.

Hope to see you at the 2013 Lone Star Chapter 124 Regional!

Evelyn Slough

FRENCH CLOCKS IN TEXAS

NAWCC's Lone Star Chapter 124 Regional for 2013

FEBRUARY 28~MARCH 2

Please print this registration form and mail to the pre-registration chairman at the address given on the bottom of the form.

Pre-Registration Form for 2013 Lone Star Regional

Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2, 2013.

- **Tables reserved by groups must be received in one envelope.**
- **All pre-registrations received by February 22, 2013 will be confirmed by mail.**
- **Refunds will be granted up to February 22.**
- **Only horological items may be bought/sold in the Mart.**
- **Only members of the NAWCC, their spouse, and their children under 18 will be admitted to the Mart.**
- **All Educational Programs and the Exhibit are free and open to the public.**
- **No Pets allowed in Mart except for guide dogs with visually impaired persons.**
- **NAWCC Officers and Members are not responsible for any loss, damage, injury or tort during this Regional. NAWCC Regional Convention Rules will govern.**
- **Public Day, Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

(BLOCK PRINT ALL ENTRIES, PLEASE)

NAME _____ NAWCC No. _____

PHONE (____) _____ Email: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

FIRST OR NICKNAME FOR BADGES (Include Member, Spouse and Children)

(_____) (_____) (_____) (_____)

	Quantity	**Price_Each**	**Total**
Mart Admittance (NAWCC Members or Spouse)	_____	@ $25.00 ea	$_____
Mart Admittance (Members Children under 18 admitted free)	_____	Free	$ 0.00
Mart Table (8 foot)	_____	@ $35.00 ea	$_____
Friday Night Banquet (Pre-Registered Only) ***Indicate here for vegetarian dinner (how many)*** _____	_____	@ $25.00 ea	$_____

Check No:_____ Total = $_____

I am bringing: __ WATCHES __ CLOCKS __ TOOLS __ BOOKS

Payment in US Currency or Check Only.

Make checks payable to LONE STAR CHAPTER 124 and mail to Gene Meysenburg, 11028 Creekmere Dr, Dallas, TX 75218 Phone 214-328-1984 or Email gm1000@prodigy.net.

Tidbits about Clocks

Found by Evelyn Slough

Throughout recorded history humans have been infatuated with time, apparently never having enough. From Stonehenge and sundials to pocket watches and alarm clocks, the old clocks and new all share the same common problem. They are found to never be accurate enough.

From the time that ancient Egyptians realized the Dog Star, now known as Sirius rose next to the sun every 365 days, they devised a calendar based on that annual arrival, which included the flooding of the Nile River. The year was 4236 BC and is the first recorded year in history. From this many old clocks were developed to count the number of hours and days, as well as the lunar activity with the rise and fall of tides. Most of these old clocks were nothing more than sticks with holes in them that had to be manually adjusted as the sun progressed through the seasons.

Sundials made their appearance and while based on a fascinating theory, the shifting of the Earth's rotation as well as cloudy days rendered them unreliable. Additionally, they were worthless during the dark and had to be adjusted for the seasons. Many of the old clocks developed during this time were also based on the movement of the sun and suffered from most of the same problems.

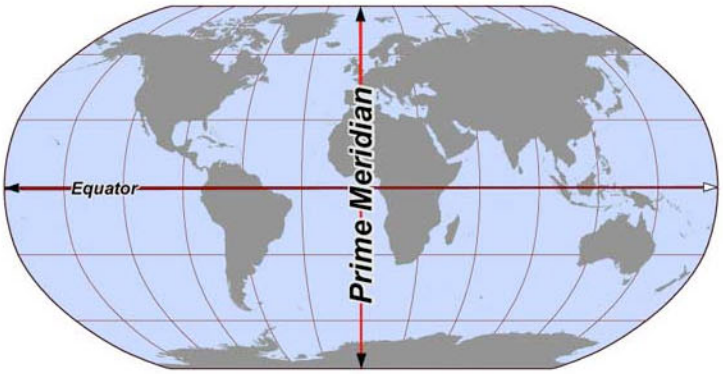
The first mechanical alarm clock developed in 1787 in New Hampshire had one major glitch. The bell on the alarm could only go off at four in the morning. It was not until 1876 that clocks with adjustable alarms were developed. The patent was held by Seth Thomas and is the bases for all mechanical alarms used today.

Prior to 1912 almost all clocks were operated either by winding the main spring or the mechanical action of weights on a pendulum. In this year the Warren Clock Company introduced clocks that were operated by battery. This was the beginning of the modern clocks.

As pocket watches became prevalent in the early 17th century, a French mathematician tied a string to one and wore it around his wrist, becoming the first person to wear a wrist watch.

Since many of the old clocks were operated by weights, the size was such that portability was a problem. Grandfather clocks became one of the most widely used type of clocks followed by smaller versions that could fit on the mantle of a fireplace or tabletop. The sizes and shapes of clocks have gone through many changes over the centuries with the only thing remaining constant is the human fascination with time.



The Story of the Greenwich Prime Meridian

BY NICK LERUSCA

Many of us know the narrative of Longitude at Sea, of the George Harrison five "timekeepers", of the Royal Observatory, of Flamsteed's nocturnal celestial observations using the two most precise Tompion clocks.

However, less known is the story of the "Prime Meridian of the world, the point at which the universal day begins. It sounds like a God-given direction – ***Place the meridian here!*** –or the result of some inescapable natural law; in reality it is the product of accident and historical forces.

As ever, it has to do with longitude. Where do you put longitude 0° on the map? Of this imaginary line runs North Pole to South Pole and divide the Earth into 360 imaginary degrees, where do you start? Where do you put a line so that any point of the globe you can fix your east-west position? How do you pick a prime meridian that is recognized by the rest of the world? Obviously you can put it anywhere you want and for over two thousand year this has been one of the key questions for navigators and map makers.

Hipparchus, the Greek astronomer first fixed it on the island of Rhodes, where he was working at the time. Ptolemy the Egyptian astronomer moved it to Canady islands – the western edge of the known world. During the Renaissance Pope Alexander VI put it west of Cape Verde Islands, while Philip II of Spain moved the meridian to Toledo. Mercator, the 16C map-maker preferred to use the islands of mid-Atlantic while cardinal Richelieu, of the Three Musketeers fame, called an international conference to settle the matter, with the westernmost of the Canary isles as a chosen spot. The French adhered to that but the rest of the world still went on using whatever prime meridian it felt like.

Things started to change when Nevil Maskelyne produced his *Nautical Almanac* in mid 1700. At the time the most reliable way of finding longitude at sea, in the middle of a large and featureless ocean was through the position of the moon and stars. Well, Maskelyne's *Nautical Almanac* was the first practical and reliable almanac in the world to give these indications. Since he was Astronomer Royal at the Greenwich Royal Observatory he took the Greenwich Meridian as its starting point. Immediately British navigators started to use it alongside with British –made charts which set longitude 0° at Greenwich. Other nations adopted the Almanac as well which meant that their charts had to have the same longitude arrangement as the British ones. From the 18C the British system began to be the world leader, the standard operating system, as it were. The first maps of the eastern Coast of the USA produced in 1784 also used the Greenwich meridian establishing it as a conventional practice for the US, thus giving Greenwich a major boost. Even the Russian went over to Greenwich in mid 19C and the High admiral of the Russian Fleet in a fit, threw out the nautical almanac prepared exclusively for the Russian mariners and joined the majority. In late 1800, 70% of the world shipping and 90% of the navigators were using Greenwich charts. It was high time for an international forum to either pick another point or use Greenwich. The Great Pyramid of Giza was promoted as well as Jerusalem and the Bering Straits were considered for the fictitious honor of a Prime Meridian. In 1884 the US offered to host an International Meridian Conference, to be held in Washington, DC. The US was elected because it had "*the greatest longitudinal extension of any country traveled by railway and telegraph lines* ". 41 delegates from 25 countries came to Washington to make the final decision. 22 out of 25 votes for Greenwich (Brazil and France abstained and Santo Domingo voted against it). French maps continued to use the Paris meridian for several decades. It is said the French would agree with Greenwich only if the British adopted the metric system; as we know, this got them nowhere. The precise wording being that the universal day is

And where *exactly* would the fixed point be? It was the center of the Transit Instrument at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, the absolute center of the cross-hairs of Airy's 1850 device, repeated in the form of a brass strip which runs across the floor and out in the courtyard. Since 1999, it has been marked by a powerful green laser shining north across the London night sky. This is longitude 0°. You can – and most people do – bestride the brass strip and stand with a foot in both hemispheres, almost as if this were the only place in the world where such a thing is possible. But of course, longitude 0° describes an imaginary line from pole to pole with other spots in the world in the same situation.

Except that Greenwich created it! If Henry VII hadn't taken a liking to Placentia and build a mansion, if Henry VIII hadn't developed it, if Charles II hadn't bequeathed it, if Maskelyne hadn't produced the *Nautical Almanac* when he did, then longitude 0° could be now in Paris, or Madrid or on the highest point in Tenerife. But Greenwich is where it all starts. And we will visit the very town, see all these spots and view the clocks and other scientific instruments on October 25, 2013.

SAVE THE DATE: OCT 22 - NOV 9 – BRITAIN AND TRANSATLANTIC STUDY CRUISE TO FT. LAUDERDALE. HISTORY OF SCIENCE, HOROLOGY, MECHANIC MUSIC, AUTOMATA. EXCLUSIVE VISITS: BRITISH MUSEUM STUDENT ROOM, GREENWICH ROYAL OBSERVATORY, BELMONT HOUSE, PORTOBELLO RD-PARIS-ARTS & METIERS, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA PILGRIMAGE, LISBON – MEDEIRA COLLECTION, VOLCANO CRATER JEEP TRIP, BERMUDA, SEMINARS AT SEA.
DETAILS? 1-973-764- 5200 OR ATC@WARWICK.NET

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 # _____

Check appropriate box:
❑ **New #124 Member**
❑ **Renew my membership**

Dues are $10 per year.
Yrs @ $10 =
Join/renew for 1-5 years

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.)