

# Lone Star Times

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors  
Lone Star Chapter 124 Grapevine, Texas

"An Educational Group Dedicated to Preserving and Understanding Horology"

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

October 2017 VOLUME 35-2 MEMBERSHIP 364



1953 Neon

## President's Message

## 2018 Regional

## Case Refinishing



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2017 Edition

Greetings Chapter Members and Friends.

Now that summer has come and gone, we are busy working on our 2018 Regional, as well as our clock and watch repair classes and meeting schedule for 2018 in Grapevine. Our next **One Day Meeting** will be **October 7<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 8:00 am with a Mart, as well as Coffee and Donuts. Bring anything Horological you want to sell and don't forget **William Slough** will be conducting a Silent Auction. Our educational for the day will be **Hugh Lindsay** of College Station speaking on "*Estate Planning and Wills.*" This is one topic we all need to pay attention to and ask questions. If you do not have your affairs in order, you will definitely want to after listening to Hugh. I always think I have mine in order; however, sometimes I wonder.

Our August One Day Meeting was a success with a Mart beginning at 8:00 am, as well as a Silent Auction. There was something for everyone! We had 53 members attend with one being a new member of Chapter 124. After a short business meeting, **John Acker** gave an update on our 2017 National Convention even though the financials were not available at the time.

**Clinton Kleen** gave a very knowledgeable educational on "*The Making of Texas Instrument LCD Watches – Time Computers.*" Everyone found this very interesting and encouraged Clint to write an article for the Bulletin, so we are in hopes he will. How many of you still have one of these watches? I still have Fred's!



I want to personally **"Thank"** those members who remain after our One Day Luncheons to help with clean up. **Brian Schmidt** and the Board really appreciate it because otherwise we would have to do it after our Board Meeting. **Kudos to those of you who remained to help out!**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2017 Edition

### Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC)

**Dee Koch** will Chair the Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC) with **Mark Vozar** and **Kelsey Downum** as Committee members. If you know of someone who may be interested in being on a future Board, please contact Dee, Mark or Kelsey. You may reach Dee by emailing [mdkoch@att.net](mailto:mdkoch@att.net) or phoning 903.245.8306. Stop anyone on the NEC at a One Day if you have questions. Being on the Board is not only fun but also a lot of work, so please be open to joining the Chapter Board. Every Board strives to make our Chapter one of the best within the NAWCC.

### Field Trip Committee

At the One Day in August, I asked if anyone was interested in a Field Trip to the Perot Museum. Several of you raised your hands, so I have formed a Committee to work on this. **William Slough** will Chair the Field Trip Committee with **Cathy Slough** helping him. If you have an idea, please contact William.

### Awards and David Tips Volunteer of the Year Committee

For those of you who may not remember, in 2009 we established a **"David Tips Volunteer of the Year Award"** to recognize Chapter Members who continue to give their time to the Chapter. It was in honor of our first Chapter President, David Tips, who had passed away. This Committee continued to grow and not long afterwards became known as the **"Awards and David Tips Volunteer of the Year Committee,"** who would also work with others to nominate members for the NAWCC's Fellow Award or Silver Star Fellow Award. Looks like I will continue to Chair this Committee once again. I have asked **Bruce Wooldridge**, **Mike Granderson** and **Hugh Slough** to be on the committee with me. The David Tips Volunteer of the Year Award is presented each year at our Regional Banquet. We chose to not have one in 2017 due to the National Convention and it is also not a requirement one be presented every year.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2017 Edition

Unfortunately, voting Chapter Board members do not qualify for this award. There is a form, which should be filled out to nominate someone for the Volunteer of the Year Award. This needs to be submitted to me by mid-January, so the Committee may make a decision and order a plaque. You should be able to find the Nomination Form on our website. [DTVYForm](#) Also, on the NAWCC Website, you will find a nomination form for the NAWCC Fellow Award; so remember to nominate your fellow members who deserve this honor. I am currently a member of the NAWCC Awards Committee and will be willing to help you with the Nomination Form; however, I cannot write it for you. It can be time consuming; however, well worth the time for those deserving.

### ***Donation to San Jacinto Chapter 139***

When the 2017 NAWCC National Convention Committee met to review the Convention, it was recommended Lone Star Chapter 124 make a donation to San Jacinto Chapter 139 for their tremendous help with our National Convention. We could have not pulled this off without their help! The Chapter 124 Board voted to give them \$500, which **John Acker** presented to Chapter 139's President **Tim Glanzman** at their Regional. **Kudos to Chapter 139!**

**I also want to extend our thoughts and prayers for those Chapter 139 members affected by Hurricane "Harvey."** Tim Glanzman and I have been in touch and I have asked what we can do to help. As of now, they may need some help restoring personal clocks from one's collection; however, I am waiting to hear from Tim. Hopefully, our members will pitch in to help those in need. We will continue to keep everyone affected by "Harvey" in our thoughts and prayers, as well as those in Florida dealing with "Irma."





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2017 Edition

### Auction Items

We are always in need of Auction Items whether it is clocks, watches, tools or books! If you are or know of someone who wants help disposing of these items, please contact **Bruce Wooldridge** by emailing [bawool@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:bawool@suddenlinkmail.com) or phoning 903-571-3093. You may contact any Board Member. We also accept things that are "It's for Free," which we put on a table at our Regional. You will always find **Bruce, Mike Granderson** and **Joe Richards** picking up Auction items from members whose spouse has passed or else one who wants to down size with clocks and tools.

### 2018 Regional Exhibit

The 2018 Lone Star Chapter 124 Regional Exhibit will be **Electric Clocks** including Battery Operated Clocks dating from the 1800s until present. If you have any you would be willing to loan for the Exhibit, please contact **Stephen Haley** by emailing [thediscerningflea@gmail.com](mailto:thediscerningflea@gmail.com) or phoning 719-337-3098. It would be most helpful if you could send him a picture of your clock/clocks with a brief description, so he can choose what we need for our Exhibit.

### Welcome Chapter 124 New Members

Howard Rhines...Saganaw, TX and Joe Stankus...Granbury, TX

Hope to see you at the One Day October 7<sup>th</sup>!  
All The Best!

*Dan*





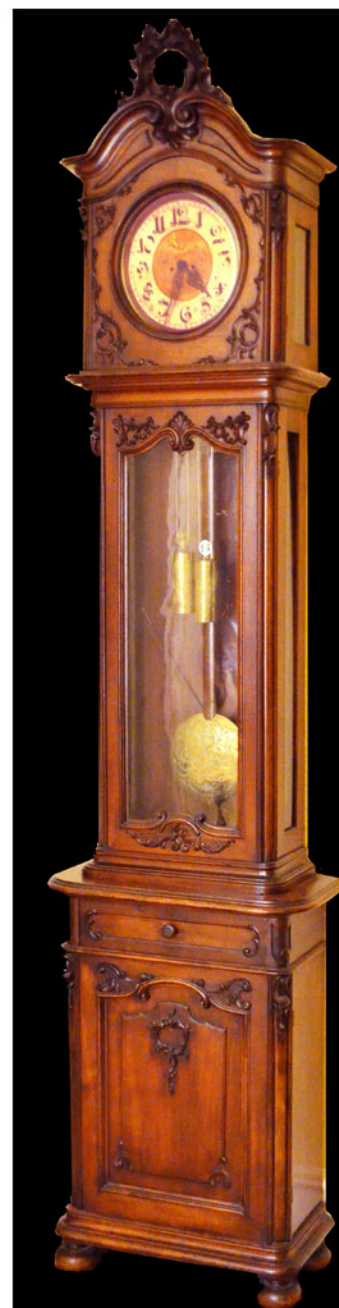
## **Shellac, Finish of Choice for Restoration**

### **Dee Koch**

During the 1700 and 1800s, shellac was commonly used as a top coat on wooden clock cases. Accomplished artisans of the period applied shellac by brush and pad to form flawless finishes lasting for years. Varnish was used less frequently as the topcoat and mainly on high end clocks. Oriental lacquer made from the sap of the lacquer tree was not used on European and American clock cases during this period. Sprayed finishes appeared later as spray equipment was not invented until the late 1890's and improved during the 1920's and 1930's for use in the automotive industry. Many clocks in individual collections have original shellac topcoats, some in flawless original condition and others in need of restoration. For authentic restoration of these cases, shellac is the finish of choice.

Shellac is derived from the scarlet resinous secretion of the female lac bug in India and Thailand. It is processed by heating, drying and pulverizing into flakes. Depending on the tree from which the stick lac is collected, time of harvest and the degree of processing, shellac is available in a variety of colors ranging from dark brown (Garnet) to almost clear (Super Blonde). Unlike most contemporary finishes, it is a natural product and non-toxic. Most clock restorers mix their own shellac using dry flakes and denatured alcohol. Concentration of the shellac mixture is calibrated as pound cuts. A one pound cut would be one pound of shellac dissolved in one gallon of alcohol. One and two-pound cuts are the most common concentrations used on clock cases. Several thin coats are much better than one thick coat. Most premixed shellacs are 3-lb. cuts (such as, Zinsser Bulls Eye Shellac) and are too thick for many applications. In its original form, shellac flakes contain wax. This can be refined out and is sold as de-waxed shellac, which is best for clock restoration. Shelf life of shellac depends on a number of factors. Liquid shellac stored in an air tight container in the dark and moderate temperatures is good for about a year.

Dried flakes if stored in a cool, dry, dark environment will last indefinitely. Shellac that remains tacky after application or has solidified into clumps is no longer useable and should be discarded.





## Shellac, Finish of Choice for Restoration

continued



For the early clock case industry, shellac's advantages included being fast drying, easy to apply and had adequate water and wear protection. It resulted in an attractive finish with depth and accentuated wood grain highlights. Because it dries rapidly, shellac collected less dust compared to slow drying varnish and could be used successfully in dusty case building shops. The disadvantages of shellac are that it is not a tough finish making it easy to scratch, it deteriorates over time and dissolves with alcohol and ammonia spills. Additionally, water saturation and heat will damage shellac finish. Varnish is much more wear and stain resistant. On the average, antique varnish finishes will be in better condition than shellac stored under similar conditions.

Unfortunately for the clock collector, shellac finish can fail over time. If this is extreme, it can leave the underlying veneer vulnerable to deterioration such as cracking and blistering from moisture and heat. There are various signs indicating a shellac finish has failed, the most noticeable being wrinkling or alligatoring. Once shellac is applied and starts to age, it begins a gradual chemical change (esterification) and plasticizes which increases the flexibility of the finish but decreases the hardness. With time it will over-plasticize and become rubbery, soft and create crevices in the finish. Another sign of failure is when the shellac particles migrate into small beads rather than a smooth continuous finish. If exposed to sufficient UV radiation from sunlight, old shellac will deteriorate into a powdery substance which easily rubs or scrapes off the surface.

There are several reasons for top coat failure including coats which were too thick during original application, high humidity, high temperature and ultraviolet (UV) radiation. In an attempt to make American clocks of the 1800s appeal to the tastes of the buyers, case finishers applied shellac in very thick coats. Typically European clocks had thinner top coats. Thick coats produced internal stress that caused the finish to first check, then crack and if extreme, resulted in alligatoring.



## **Shellac, Finish of Choice for Restoration**

continued

This is a common problem observed on American kitchen and mantle clocks. Additionally, if the case is left in the sun or stored under damp or high temperature conditions, the shellac may fail and stains fade. Shellac is a natural polymeric plastic and as a consequence, UV radiation causes polymer degradation. It is best to store valuable clocks top coated with shellac out of the sun and away from long exposure to florescent lighting.

What the owner and restorer do with these old failed shellac finishes depends on a number of variables and range from doing nothing to total refinishing. If it is a rare and valuable clock with original finish, you should leave it alone or simply clean and wax the finish. You have more options if it is less valuable. You can leave it alone, clean and wax it, touch it up or totally remove and replace the original finish. You may elect to do little if you like the way it looks and the finish failure is not so extreme as to leave it vulnerable to moisture damage from high humidity or extreme fading from UV radiation. If you want to protect the integrity of the veneer, you will need to fix the shellac. Chapter 124 offers a two course sequence in wood clock case restoration (CD-100 and CD-200) if you would like to learn more about restoring your clocks.

**Dee Koch**  
**Past President**  
**Instructor**



# Case Clock Restoration II Class



Curt Lefferts-Barry Kilfoy-Jim Beckham-Dee Koch-Kelsey Downum-Brian Schmidt-David Clauss-Ronnie Mathis

## **Chapter 124 Education News by Barry Kilfoy**

Educational opportunities for chapter 124 members are coming to a close for 2017 – But be aware of what remains and expect more for 2018. A “Well attended” Cuckoo-Clock Class (SR-100) was held on August 19 supported by instructor Gerald Greener. Attendees gleaned several tips-and-tricks to help future work on these unique clocks. The second wood case course “Wood Clock Case Restoration II” (CD-200) was held on September 1-3 supported by instructor Dee Koch. Students worked “Self-Paced” on their project cases. Several unique challenges were expertly addressed during this 3 day class. The class photo shows students (and instructor) upon completion. (L-R - Curt Lefferts – Barry Kilfoy – Bill Nash – Jim Beckham – (Dee Koch) – Kelsey Downum – Brian Schmidt – David Clauss – Ronnie Mathis)

A “Beginning” class “WR-100 Pocket Watch Repair - Part A” is scheduled for September 23-24 supported by instructors Bill Andrie & Clinton Kleen. Here is a chance to get great “first exposure” to pocket watch repair.

Mark Vozar continued Chapter 124’s “just show up” Open Bench series (OW-100 & 101) with another session on September 5, 2017. Typically Open Bench events are offered on alternate Tuesday evenings and a Saturday once a month, so visit an “Open Bench” event to check out projects being worked during these sessions. Look for more of these in 2018. Contact Mark at [msvoze@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msvoze@sbcglobal.net) (817-399-9894) for more information.

This year Chapter 124 is offering FSW class “Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair I” (F200) offered by FSW instructor Phil Ball. Another exciting 2-day “Lathe/Tool” class is being offered by instructor Bruce Wooldridge “TE-102 - Advanced Micro Lathe Projects” scheduled for October 28-29. This “more advanced” class will introduce some new challenging projects for the lathe, so sign-up today.

What a great year for Chapter 124 – all this clock/watch/tool training and a National NAWCC Convention to Boot – Wow! Stay tuned for continued outstanding class training sessions provided by our great Chapter 124 instructors for 2018.



# Chapter 124 Board

2017-2018

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## **Director at Large-John Hunt**

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# **Save The Date!**

**March 2nd & 3rd, 2018**

**Lone Star Chapter 124 Regional**

**Mesquite Convention & Expo Center**

**1700 Rodeo Drive**

**Mesquite, TX 75149**

**EDUCATIONALS~DEMOS~SILENT AUCTIONS**

**Look for Registration Forms  
in the January~February 2018 Mart  
or on [www.chapter124.org](http://www.chapter124.org)**

*National Watch and Clock Collectors Chapter 124 Grapevine, Texas*



Hugh Lindsay ~ College Station

# Join Us & I'll take my hat off to you!

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

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors  
Chapter 124

## 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 Creekmore, 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.)