

Section: Chapter News

History of the Chapter

1959-1990

[as recorded in the membership booklet 1991]

Shenandoah Valley Chapter #32 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc., was organized at a meeting held on May 2, 1959, at Sky Chalet, Mt. Jackson, VA.

Mr. Joseph A. Wright was elected President; Mr. J.L. Shelton, Charlottesville, VA was elected Secretary-Treasurer. M.B. Parks, a member of our Chapter, was present at this meeting. The next meeting was held on March 2, 1960. The first meeting held in 1961 was on April 30, at the Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA. The first Regional Conference was held at the George Washington Inn, Fredericksburg, VA, on May 21, 1961. The three Chapters attending were Washington #12, Shenandoah Valley #32, and Old Dominion #34. The next Regional Meeting was also held in Fredericksburg, VA, on October 27-28, 1962.

Interest in the Shenandoah Chapter diminished.

A meeting was arranged at the home of Bill and Myrtie Simmons, Eagle Rock, VA, November 14, 1964, for the purpose of reactivating Shenandoah Chapter #32 of the NAWCC. Mr. Luby Jernigan of the NAWCC Ways and Means Committee and North Carolina Chapter #17, traveled to Eagle Rock, VA, from his home in North Carolina, to offer organizational assistance. There were ten members and three visitors present; including "Bill" Kesler of Roanoke, VA. J. W. "Bill" Simmons was elected President. J.E. Atkinson was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The next meeting was held on January 10, 1965, at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Ralph Proffitt, Pulaski, VA. The decision was made, at this meeting, that our Chapter would meet at 2 pm, on the second Sunday, each quarter of the year. The meetings were held in those members' homes, who volunteered to host the Chapter.

During the next fifteen years, the Chapter met at locations in Blacksburg, Pulaski, Christiansburg, Elliston, Fincastle, Eagle Rock, and a number of homes in Roanoke, VA. Shenandoah Valley Chapter #32 sponsored their First Tri-Chapter Regional on October 24-25, 1969, in Charlottesville, VA, at the Monticello Hotel. Washington Chapter #12, and Old Dominion Chapter #34, joined our Chapter for this Regional.

By the late 1970s our Chapter had grown in membership, to the extent, that meetings in the members' homes were no longer practical. The Housing Committee made arrangements with the Managers of the local motels to use their meeting rooms and dining facilities for our Chapter meetings. Our Chapter meets on the 3rd Sunday every other month, starting in January. The meeting starts at 2 pm, following lunch.

Over the years, all of our leaders have contributed to the success of our Chapter. "Bill" and Myrtie Simmons were the "binding force" that held our Chapter together during the first ten years. In 1979, "Bill" became the President of the NAWCC, bringing recognition to himself, and honor to our Chapter.