



National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ONE

The oldest and largest Chapter in the NAWCC

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ONE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011

Chapter One
Council Members
2008 - 2010

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Continued...

November 6th, 2011 GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER AT OAKS *100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456 (484) 754-3976*

Due to a serious conflict with Schmidt's Auction which is to be held on the date originally planned for our Oct. meeting our next Chapter One Meeting has been moved to Nov. 6th.

THE SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP PRESENTER for this meeting will be posted on the Chapter One web site.

The Cuckoo Clock class conducted on the 17th of Sept. proved to be a very successful event. There were ten students who showed up to learn how to disassemble, clean and reassemble a Cuckoo Clock movement. Several students had never taken a clock movement apart before and a few more had never been able to put it back together again and gets it running. All of these steps were achieved by most students by the end of the class. Several folks who were attending an adjacent Quilting Show at Oaks stopped in and were fascinated by what they saw. This one class has led to the signing up of two new members and the possibility of at least two more. Instructor Dave Gorrell was very pleased with the caliber of the students, their willingness to follow instructions, their well thought out questions, and willingness to engage in repair techniques that were rather advanced for beginners. Pivot polishing, bushing and reassembling a complicated movement are often daunting tasks for many experienced clock repair persons much less for those who are doing these things for the very first time. It is hoped that future classes will attract as many willing and able students as this first one has.

The next **One Day Class** will be on **Nov. 5th at the Expo Center at Oaks**. The topic will be: "stripping and refinishing clock cases." The fee is \$10.00 and a free pizza and soda lunch is provided. Students can bring a clock case that needs stripping or just "brightening". Students should contact the instructor prior to the class to discuss the case they intend to bring to insure that the proper materials will be on hand for the class. Sorry, but no tall case clocks; cases are limited to moderately sized wall clocks and mantel clocks. The class will cover such topics as: evaluation (should it be stripped, just brightened, or left alone), stripping and/or "brightening," staining, refinishing (using shellac and varnish).

Instructor: Dave Gorrell

Contact numbers: (410) 987-5915 or (443) 694-4972

Topics being considered for future classes are:

Bushing a clock, all types of bushing systems and machines will be covered as well as when to bush and why.
How to make a strap verge from scratch for a recoil escapement.
How to patch small veneer pieces and how to make small trim pieces for clock cases.
Unlocking the secrets of chiming clocks, how to make them sound like they should and when they should.
Repairing and reviving slate and marble clock cases.
Escapements: recoil, dead beat, half dead beat, how to recognize and adjust them.
Wooden works clocks, how to repair them, bush them, and replace broken teeth.
Replacing broken teeth in a brass gear or barrel.
Soldering techniques: both soft and silver.
Repivotting wheel arbors.

Note: We are looking for a skilled watchmaker to add watch repairs to our educational program. If you are interested, or know of someone who is, please let us know.

Directors*Continued from page 1***Colleen Houtz**

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Membership renewal has progressed at a pleasingly rapid pace. At the present we now have 285 dues paying members.

WORKSHOP AND SPEAKERS ON 9/18/2011

Al Dodson conducted a well-attended and very interesting class on **Restoring Cuckoo Clock, trumpet, and organ bellows**. Many attendees left the class with a strong desire to try these techniques themselves and wondered why in the world they had not done so in the past. It seemed as though this entire meeting was devoted to Cuckoo Clocks. Many such clocks were represented in the Silent Auction as well as on the Mart floor. To top off this theme Jim Zerfing gave an extremely informative and interesting lecture on **The History of the American Clock Company**. He also schooled the audience on how to tell the differences between American manufactured and German manufactured Cuckoo Clocks. After seeing the many examples of American made Cuckoo clocks during Jim's lecture, I am sure, that a new interest in these beautiful clocks will soon be created.

TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL? THAT IS THE QUESTION

A word of advice to those of you who are reluctant to bring your clocks or watches to Regionals or meetings, fearing that you may not get the prices you may want or need. Take note that there are buyers out there and the demand for good clocks and watches is still high and getting higher. All you need to do to verify that fact is to look at the recent auctions where many clocks are being sold at reasonable and often above reasonable prices. However, most people are buying at today's prices not those of ten or twenty years ago. If you are waiting for the prices to climb to those helicon days of the 1980's or early 1990's you are waiting for something that probably will never appear or not, at least, for quite some time. In fact plagued as we are, and most every organization like ours is, with a young public that is reluctant to join groups and that seems to have less than a robust interest in clocks and watches, it may be a good idea to divest of those pieces that were marginal purchases to begin with and get what you can out of them now.

ATTENDANCE

The last Meeting on September 18th was a complete sell out. For the first time since we have been at Oaks, we had to scramble to find Mart tables for those who wanted to purchase them. We hope that in these difficult financial times members will still continue to join us and indulge in their favorite horological interests.

Mid Eastern Regional

The next major event this year will be the Mid Eastern Regional which will be held in Hampton, Va. on Oct. 14th and 15th. We hope that a good many of our members will travel south to attend and support this Regional. In the past this has been one of our prime shows. The moving of this show to a more modest venue (but no less elegant site) is a trend that all successful Regionals are adopting. Remember it isn't the building that determines the success of a Regional but what is found on the tables in the exhibits, workshops, and lectures. So bring those highly collectable treasures you have been hoarding and convert them into cash or other treasures that will surely grace your own collection. And don't forget to attend the lectures and workshops and add to your skills and knowledge of watches and clocks.

Chapter One Dues for the FY September 1, 2011—August 31, 2012

As you know our Fiscal year ends the last day of August. Your Chapter One dues of \$10.00 will be due on that date. The familiar dues renewal form is included below. As usual you may send in your dues with your September Meeting Registration. Be aware that those who do not pay their dues are not allowed to purchase or share Mart tables, cannot purchase Early Bird entrance, receive a Newsletter, or be eligible for the Membership drawings.

NAWCC CHAPTER ONE MEMBER DUES RENEWAL

Dues Payment: \$10.00 Fiscal Year -2011 Please make your check payable to: **Chapter One NAWCC**.

Name: _____ NAWCC # _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Please send this form along with your payment to:

David Gorrell, Treasurer.

1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, MD 21108

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

As promised, the Council has asked for your input and provided a suggestion box in which you can submit your questions, issues and the concerns that you feel need to be addressed. Some of the items submitted during the last meeting were as follows:

Prices for "Walk Ins" need to be reduced.

Answer: Registration and table assignments can be made up to 12:00 noon on the Wed. prior to the meeting. Those who haven't registered by then ought to pay some additional costs. After all, several council members must sacrifice their time and Mart opportunities to man the registration table to register Walk-Ins. We often have up to 60 or 70 walk-ins each meeting. Remember: all council members serve as volunteers and are NOT PAID for their time or service.

Prices for younger members and guests ought to be lower.

Answer: Horological students and children under the age of 12 are given a discount of 50% which includes a luncheon. Children under the age of 8 are admitted free. Guests for the first time can gain a tour of the Mart at no charge. But Guests are not allowed to buy or sell on the Mart floor. This is a NAWCC rule not ours. Guests who wish to buy and sell or have access to the Mart along with Early Birds and Table holders ought to pay the same rate as all Members.

Jewelry should be allowed on Mart tables.

Answer: NAWCC rules do not allow non-horological items in the Mart. The Mart Chairman tries to make sure that everyone adheres to this policy.

Eliminate the Luncheon and have Donuts and Muffins instead.

Answer: To continue to serve a Luncheon or not ought to be decided by the Membership as a whole. The Council would certainly like to hear from all of you on that matter. However, some statistics might shed some light on the issue. Out of the 150 Members who were eligible to receive the Luncheon on Sunday only 29 chose not to. As to the second part of the question, the Expo Center caterer has bent their own rules in letting us sell coffee; they will not allow us to sell donuts and muffins. They will be happy to supply us with those items for a price and a quantity that must be guaranteed.

Move the Meeting day to Saturday.

Answer: This is an issue that ought to be addressed by the members themselves. We encourage your input on this idea and welcome your comments. Please let any Council member know how you feel about this topic, or use the suggestion box to register your opinion.

Have a more varied Luncheon include beef, fish, or pork.

Answer: A very good idea and it will be forwarded to the Caterer. Remember the June Meeting featured a Roast Beef dinner which cost us a substantial increase in the price of the meal.

Have containers so that members can take their Luncheon with them.

Answer: The purpose of the Luncheon is to encourage the membership to remain to hear the Speaker, and to give the membership an opportunity to enjoy a meal and enjoy each other's company. The caterer strictly forbids the taking of food off the premises.

Move the Meeting site closer to Philadelphia.

Answer: The Council has spent the last 5 years searching for a smaller, cheaper venue. Unfortunately there is nothing in the area that meets our needs in terms of size or availability. If you are aware of any such venue please let us know.

Sell pastry and donuts with the coffee.

Answer: See Answer above.

Confirmation of registrations and table assignments should be mailed to members who include an S.A.S.E.

Answer: This has been the Council's policy since 1987. The only S.A.S.E.'s that are not mailed are those that are received by the Secretary after the Monday prior to the meeting. Those received after that date will probably not be received back before the meeting.

Assistance for those with disabilities ought to be available in loading and unloading.

Answer: We would direct your attention to the June 2011 newsletter in which this very assistance was offered to all older and disabled members.

What is the proper etiquette for buffet portions? I see some plates with "super-sized portions" in the hands of members while those at the end of the queue are left with hardly anything on the serving line.

Answer: As stated several times before this is not an "all you can eat" buffet. The proper etiquette for portions at a buffet is to take one serving of meat, and one serving spoon of whatever else is provided on the serving line. Always keep in mind that there are people behind you who are just as hungry as you are.



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OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE:

November 6th, 2011

GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER AT OAKS

100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456 (484) 754-3976

(Speaker and Workshop presenter to be announced Online later)

Mart Schedule

7:00 A.M. Registration opens

7:30 A. M. Mart room opens for Table Holders and Early Birds

8:30 A.M. Mart opens for all Registered NAWCC members.

10:30 Workshop

12 Noon Mart Closes , Luncheon

1:00 P.M. Speaker

The Membership Drawing for this Meeting will be \$100 in Mart Scrip. Remember only Pre-registered, dues-paying Members are eligible.

Meeting Dates for the Remainder of 2011

Meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2011 are as follows: December 11.

Registering for Chapter One Meetings Online

Just email Dave Gorrell at djgclocks@aol.com to register online. Indicate the number of tables you want, the number of registrations you need, whether you want to register as an Early bird, and if you will be staying for Lunch. You can then present a check for your reserved items and pick up your badge at the door the day of the meeting. However **“Wednesday 12 Noon prior to the meeting”** is still the last day for adding or canceling registrations.

NAWCC PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ONE REGISTRATION FORM

For our November 6, 2011 Meeting

Meeting/Mart Advanced Registration (All participants must pay these entrance fees to the Mart)

NAWCC Member/spouse \$18 per person # _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

Member's Child (age 5 – 17) \$ 9 per child # _____ @ \$9.00 = \$ _____

I WILL _____, I WILL NOT _____ be staying for Lunch

MART TABLE (Chapter 1 Members Only) \$20.00 each # _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

EARLY BIRD (This fee is in addition to the \$18.00/ person entrance fee)

1 or 2 Members only + Spouse or Children \$15.00 # _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

3 or 4 Members only + Spouse or Children \$23.00 # _____ @ \$23.00 = \$ _____

Make Check Payable to NAWCC Chapter #1

TOTAL \$ _____

NAMES FOR BADGES (Please Print Clearly)

1) _____ **NAWCC #** _____

2) _____ **NAWCC #** _____

3) _____ **NAWCC #** _____

4) _____ **NAWCC #** _____

Phone(_____) _____

Mail to : Dave Gorrell/ 1179 Dicus Mill Rd. / Millersville, MD. 21108 By filling out this form the payee agrees to adhere to all Chapter One Mart Room Rules and By-Laws