



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

Philadelphia Chapter One

Chartered November 1, 1943

The next Chapter One Meeting will be held on:

January 21, 2018 at the

**Holiday Inn, Lansdale
1750 Sumneytown Pike
Kulpsville, Pa. 19443
215 368 3800**

The Speakers for the January 21th Meeting:

The Luncheon Speaker will be: Ricardo Baez. His topic will be: Being a first year student in the Patek Phillipe Watchmaking School in New York City. Ricardo is one of 6 students admitted to the program which included 120 applicants. He has a passionate interest in watchmaking and will share his interests with our chapter.

The Workshop Presenter will be: Terry Addison. His topic will be: "Burning in techniques for Clock case repair."

Saturday Hands On Workshop Saturday January 20th. The class will be devoted to turning small brass parts on the watchmakers lathe. This session will be for beginners only. The session will go over the various parts of the watchmakers lathe. Cleaning and maintenance of the lathe will also be demonstrated. Graver sharpening and handling will be introduced. The participants will be asked to make several simple parts out of brass stock using a hand graver. Turning techniques will be practiced and turning to a specified dimension will be required. Participants will be asked to bring: a working watchmaker's lathe with working motor, at least two sharpened gravers, and a pair of safety glasses. Those who don't have these items should let the instructor (Dave Gorrell, 443 694 4972 or djgclocks@aol.com) know prior to the class.

***Those bringing Sherline Lathes must have a Sherline "T" rest. There will be several watch-makers' lathes for participants to loan but the supply is limited.**

The Last Chapter One Meeting:

The second meeting at the Lansdale Holiday Inn turned out to be quite successful. The facility is adequate and the food is good. All of the mart tables were sold and a few extra were thrown in to accommodate the walk in crowd. A few changes need to be addressed before the next meeting. The main complaint was that the mart room noise level interferes somewhat with the Best in Show Contest and the Workshop presentation. The Mart room chairman will be working on that problem and hopefully will have a satisfactory solution before the next meeting. Many of our members took the opportunity to meet and talk with Tom Wilcox, our new NAWCC Executive Director, who by the way is also a Chapter One member. The One Day Class on "Clock Case Cleaning and Refinishing" had 11 participants and went very well. The before and after pictures of the clocks worked on during the class will be posted on the Chapter's new and improved web site. The clock cases used for this class were donated to the Chapter. After they had been cleaned or refinished by the students the clocks were placed in the Silent Auction and sold on the Mart Floor at very modest prices. Nine of the eleven clocks worked on in the class were sold. All of the proceeds from that sale were also donated to the Chapter. The workshop conducted by Dan Nied was very well attended and a great deal of interest was shown for his topic, "The cleaning of verge watches". The Best in Show Contest had a record eight items entered. The prize for the most unusual entry, if there was one, would definitely go to Al Dodson's submission of an example of natural pith wood. Pith wood, for those who aren't familiar with the term is extensively used in watch repairing. Its oil absorbing qualities are vital in cleaning jewel holes and pivots. Unfortunately Al faced a formidable adversary in the form of a beautiful combination staking and jewelry boxed set. Two watches were entered and as usual the choice between the two was difficult to make. Four clocks were entered in the Clock Category and the competition was fierce. Pictures of all of these entries and the winners of each category will be posted on the Chapter website. The winners in each of the categories will receive a \$50 Mart Scrip prize at the January Meeting. Finally the Luncheon speaker Richard Newman, who also happens to be the NAWCC Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave a terrific presentation on "Robert Leslie, the Greatest American Clock and Watchmaker ever forgotten" This presentation stirred a great deal of interest and thankfully will be the basis of a new book which not only breaks new ground but will assuredly alter the way in which we think about clock and watchmaking in America during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Registration for the Meeting: January 21, 2018

Advanced Registration (All participants must pay these entrance fees to the MART)

NAWCC Member/ Spouse / Guest \$18.00 per person # _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

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

I WILL STAY FOR LUNCH _____ I WILL NOT STAY FOR LUNCH _____

MART TABLE: Jan. 21st Meeting 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 = \$ _____

Names for the Badges (Please Print Clearly)

1) _____ NAWCC # _____

2) _____ NAWCC # _____

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE "One Day Class" \$15.00/person \$ _____

Chapter One Membership Dues 9/1/2017 to 8/31/2018 \$10.00 per year \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Phone # () _____

Mail to: Jeffrey Fox 2 Pebble Drive Horsham, Pa. 19044

Or email your Registration to Jeffrey.W.Fox@gmail.com

Or call (215) 672-6947 (answering machines says "Ed's Clock Repair")

By filling out this form the payee/s agree to adhere to all Chapter One NAWCC, Inc., Mart Room Rules and By Laws.

NO REFUNDS AFTER 12 NOON THE SATURDAY one week PRIOR TO THE MEETING, January 13th, 2018

Meeting Schedule:

Saturday January 20th "One Day Class"

Starts at 10:00 ends at 4:00PM

Sunday January 21st General Meeting

7:30 A.M. Registration Opens –

7:30 to 8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room set up Table Holders and Early Birds Only

8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room opens to all other registered participants

10:30 AM Best In Show Contest.

11:30 -- Workshop Terry Addison "Burning In Techniques"

12:00 -- Noon Mart Room Closes. No Security, the Mart Room must be cleared

1:45 -- Luncheon Speaker Ricardo Baez "A student's experience at Patak Phillipe"

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Chapter One Meeting Schedule for 2018

March 18th, May 6th

All of these Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn in Lansdale (Kulpsville), Pa.

Attention: Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the upcoming National Convention in York, Pa. on July 18 to 22, 2018 should contact Steve Sadowski at the Chapter One Meeting on January 21st. 2018. All help is greatly appreciated.

Chapter One Officers Needed! ! !

The Nominations Committee is looking for candidates for the 2018 to 2019 term. The Chapter needs to fill the offices of: President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and five directors. If you are interested or know someone who is, submit their name to any current Chapter One officer.

Check out the new improved Chapter One website, at “Philadelphia Watch and Clock Society” This new website is easier to use and is filled with all of the events and activities sponsored by your Chapter.

The Lighter Side:



What is wrong with this repair?



Here we have a very nice mantel clock, the walnut case appears to be quite similar to one made by Seth Thomas... The movement, on the other hand, is French from the late 1800's. The holes on the inside of the case strongly indicate that the case and movement did not start out in life together. More importantly, however, is what do you do when you find a clock that is missing its verge and escape wheel? Well, there are several paths one could take:

1. Determine the tooth count of the missing wheel and have one made. Or, if one had the gear cutting tools, cut the escape wheel one's self and fit a verge to it. 2. Find a similar movement and use the verge and escape wheel as replacements. An easier third solution, which just might work and be a whole lot easier to cobble together, would be to fit a platform escapement to the old movement. That might only require determining the tooth count and making a new wheel that would fit the new platform's escape wheel pinion. Here again you run into several problems. But what if one doesn't have a platform escapement? The repair person who worked on this clock must have been faced with just this sort of problem. However, not to be thwarted by a lack of equipment or platform escapements, this repair person found a solution to the problem. Not a very good one, I might add, but nevertheless a solution. As you can see from the photograph an Elgin pocket watch has been modified and used as a substitute platform escapement. The mainspring and barrel have been removed and the 4th wheel of the clock was modified to fit the teeth of the elongated pocket watch center wheel pinion. A separate cock has been added to accommodate the new center wheel pinion. The pocket watch was then affixed to the clock movement with several screws and there you have a near perfect solution to a knotty problem. To crown this unorthodox repair a protective cover was made to safeguard the delicate watch movement. The proof, however, of the efficacy of any repair or modification is in the question one must always ask, "Does it work?" The answer in this case is NO. Although the theory of this endeavor seems to be sound, the practical end doesn't. Very often these days one sees platform escapements used in clocks so there is nothing wrong with that facet of the idea. In this case, however, it appears that the mainspring on the clock is just too heavy for the watch mechanism. Once the mainspring is fully wound, the pocket watch movement binds up and refuses to run. Too much power on a gear train is often far more harmful than not enough. This is one situation that definitely proves that point. Who knows the circumstances that led to this ingenious but unsuccessful repair? At any rate whatever the reason, destroying the historical and horological integrity of both the Elgin watch and the French movement was

probably more work than simply opting for solution number 1, that is, determine the proper tooth count and diameter of the missing escape wheel, make it or have it made and fit a verge to it.

Scarface's Pocket watch on the auction block

Al Capone's diamond-studded, platinum pocket watch went for \$84,375 during an auction Saturday featuring other artifacts that belonged to some of America's most notorious gangsters.

Capone's watch as well as a musical composition he handwrote behind bars in Alcatraz was among the items up for bid in the "Gangsters, Outlaws and Lawmen" auction by RR Auction, an auction house headquartered in Boston. The auction was held Saturday afternoon at the Royal Sonnet hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Capone, who was born to Italian immigrants in New York City, headed a Chicago-based crime empire during the Prohibition era that raked in millions of dollars through bootlegging, gambling, racketeering and other illicit activities. He was dubbed Scarface by the press after his face was slashed during a fight, a nickname he apparently disliked.

"Unlike his more maligned moniker of 'Scarface,' Capone preferred that those closest to him call him by 'Snarky,' a slang term which meant 'sharp' or 'well-dressed,'" according to a description accompanying Capone's watch on RR Auction's website.



According to the auction house, the rounded triangular pocket watch was personally owned and used by Capone. The timepiece is on its original chain made of 14-karat white gold. The exterior of the case features 23 diamonds shaped to form Capone's initials, "AC," which are encircled by 26 additional diamonds. Another 72 diamonds circle the watch's platinum face and gold-tone impressed numerals. Online bids for Capone's watch had surpassed \$17,000 prior to the live auction Saturday afternoon. Experts estimated the item would sell for more than \$25,000, according to RR Auction.

Where do we get the terms “Clock Wise “or “Counter clock Wise”?

Before clocks were commonplace, the terms "sunwise" and "deasil", "deiseil" and even "deocil" from the Scottish Gaelic language and from the same root as the Latin "dexter" ("right") were used for clockwise. "Widdershins" or "withershins" (from Middle Low German "weddersinnes", "opposite course") was used for counterclockwise. The terms clockwise and counterclockwise can only be applied to a rotational motion once a side of the rotational plane is specified, from which the rotation is observed. For example, the daily rotation of the Earth is clockwise when viewed from above the South Pole, and counterclockwise when viewed from above the North Pole. Clocks traditionally follow this sense of rotation because of the clock's predecessor: the sundial. Clocks with hands were first built in the Northern Hemisphere (see *main article*), and they were made to work like sundials. In order for a horizontal sundial to work (in the Northern Hemisphere), it must be placed looking northward. Then, when the Sun moves in the sky (east to south to west), the shadow cast on the opposite side of the sundial moves with the same sense of rotation (west to north to east). This is why hours were drawn in sundials in that manner, and why modern clocks have their numbers set in the same way. Note, however, that on a vertical sundial (such as those placed on the walls of buildings), the shadow moves in the opposite direction, and some clocks were constructed to mimic this. The best-known surviving example is the astronomical clock in the Münster Cathedral, whose hands move counterclockwise. Occasionally, clocks whose hands revolve counterclockwise are nowadays sold as a novelty. Historically, some Jewish clocks were built that way, for example in some synagogue towers in Europe, to accord with right-to-left reading in the Arabic language and the Hebrew language.^[1]



The astronomical clock in Munster Cathedral, Germany, 1540 -1543. Note the counterclockwise numbering on the 24 hour dial.