



NAWCC FLORIDA SUNTIME CHAPTER 19

Sunday, May 20, 2012

**MART opens to
General
Admission at
8:00 AM**

LAKE MIRROR
CIVIC CENTER
121 S. LAKE AVE
LAKELAND, FL

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Ed O'Brien

Vice President
Ken Pell

Treasurer
Roger Moses

Recording Secretary
Joanne Bebout
Corresponding Sec'y
Bill Bassett

Directors
Roy Ramsey
Jack Preddy
Tom Bransford
Marty Wilkey

Sergeant at Arms
Carl Peckenpaugh

2012 MEETINGS:

- ~~Jan 8, 2012~~
- ~~Mar 11, 2012~~
- May 20, 2012
- July 8, 2012
- Sep 9, 2012
- Nov 11, 2012

TABLE COVERS MANDATORY FOR ALL DEALER TABLES

- 7:30 Pre-Registered members enter
- 9:00 – 10:00 **FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS**
- **ALL MORNING - SILENT AUCTION TABLES**
- 10:30 **FREE** workshop. **Tumbler Cleaning Clocks** – Roger Moses
- 11:30 **BUSINESS MEETING** Maximum attendance is encouraged.
- **FREE JIMBO'S BBQ LUNCHEON** follows business meeting.

IT'S "SPRING" TIME

Remember, in May it's the Third Sunday!!

Of course I refer to the great season of fresh beginnings and ideal temperatures, though for us, whether our interests center on clocks or watches, mechanical springs are central to our activities. So, for us, it's always spring time even when the temperatures make their dramatic shifts up or down.

Looking around us though, there seem to be increasing indications of autumn. That's when the leaves turn color and fall from the trees and many of us are seeing the "leaves" on our heads turn colors and even fall. Even more

ominous is the knowledge that autumn is followed by winter when much of nature goes dormant or even dies. No need to dwell on this except that we must recognize even among our small organization that we have members becoming somewhat dormant, and even leaving us.

Now we see our national organization closing its classroom doors.

There is no denying that we are part of an activity, mechanical timekeeping, that has fallen victim to technology. After all,

what's a more accurate timekeeper, the \$25.00 quartz watch or the \$10,000.00 mechanical watch or clock?

On the other hand (no pun intended watchmakers) our alternative activity, preservation of history's mechanical artistry, is more viable than ever. It also has the potential to become more profitable for those with the right training, skill set and aptitude.

The mechanical aptitude for future horologists will come from nature, but where will aspiring watch and clock repair people turn to learn the skills specific to this evolving trade?

Certainly we will not see a re-emergence of factories producing mechanical timepieces so there will be no incentive to establish trade schools. Look around you and you will see tomorrow's horology teachers. Whether you are commercially active in the trade or a hobbyist, the future is in your hands.

Already there is a challenge for many people to find service and repair resources for their watch and clock collections. Most of us have repaired family heirlooms for someone who kept them in a dormant state for years because they didn't know whom they could trust to care for and restore them. Those of you with established watch and clock repair businesses, and who stress quality work and customer service are probably doing a good business. If typical your customers are no longer just nearby neighbors, but cover a large geographical area because you have established a confidence factor.

But we are all finite, so the skills and the tools have to be passed to successors. That creates challenges:

Just as with writing a will or buying life insurance, passing your skills on to your successor re-affirms your mortality.

If you are active with many years of potential productivity,

the concern may be that your trainee equal or surpass your skills and possibly take away some of your business.

If you are a hobbyist you may not want to dedicate the time, nor have adequate facilities to provide training.

Most of us were provided our opportunity to perform horology through a mentor or a school. For our successors school is becoming an increasingly scarce option.

DUES

Within NAWCC Chapter 19 we have discussed our finances openly. We continuously make members aware of our bank balance, and we try to involve everyone in discussions about the deficit we increase at each meeting. Your management team is all volunteers, so we cannot cut our salaries. Meeting hall rent is controlled by the landlord, and it has been increasing each year – a trend that does not seem likely to be reversed. Even at the bargain rate we pay for the barbeque lunch, Chapter 19 does not collect enough at the door to cover the cost.

Unless someone has an attractive means of generating revenue for Chapter 19, there has to be an adjustment in the future. Considerations include charging for the donuts and/or the lunch or adjusting member costs for dues and mart tables. At this time no decision has

been made, and we are open to any and all viable suggestions.

It appears that **NAWCC** is going to **increase national dues**.

This is quite out of our control, but that does not lessen the impact on our chapter's members. My hope is that the national increase will not mean a decline in our local membership. We will continue striving to make participation in Chapter 19 attractive enough that some who might consider dropping out would re-think that decision.

Our mart is renowned for size and quality. We have enough members that the fellowship of meetings is always invigorating, and we are fortunate to have a talented and diverse pool of presenters for our workshops.

Your input is encouraged, and we welcome ideas that will make your NAWCC Chapter 19 experience more meaningful (and even profitable).

Opportunity for a little extra fun, participation and \$\$

Bring horological items of any kind, watches, clocks, tools, parts, books, etc. to sell in the **silent auction**. Consider some items that are a little more expensive than would normally be seen on the silent auction tables. Offer boxes of movements or parts. **If your item doesn't sell you are not out anything except the shop space you wanted to gain.**

Ed O'Brien