

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2008 Volume 2



Halloween is one of the oldest holidays that's celebrated. Its second behind Christmas in popularity.

Most of us associate Halloween with costumes, parties and children trick-or-treating for candy.

Halloween is the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday honoring the dead. Referred to as All Hallows Eve it dates to over 2000 years ago. All Hallows Eve is the night before All Saints Day celebrated by Christians.



The Celts believed the souls of the dead roamed the streets at night, and not all spirits were friendly. Seemingly gifts and treats were left for the spirits to ward off spells and bad luck for the up and coming year.

In this Issue

A rare cast iron 'Get Up Electric Alarm Clock' made by Darce Alarm and more on the 'Bugle Boy' alarms. Also included is an article on an alarm made by Turner and the completion of Ken Reindel's article on Bushing.

Presidential Election

It takes commitment and dedication to take on the responsibility of this office.

No, not the President of the United States .

We're talking about President of the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter. Enclosed in this issue is a ballot to be returned with your vote.

BEST WISHES FOR A
HAPPY, SAFE
HALLOWEEN

Officers and Contacts

Alarm Clock	
Chapter Newsletter:	Quarterly
Annual Dues:	\$15.00
PRESIDENT:	Vince Angell
PUBLICITY:	phylathome@hotmail.com
:	
TREASURER:	Mike Wilson
SECRETARY:	mike@oldephotog.com
ASSOCIATE	Phyllis Angell
EDITOR:	phylathome@hotmail.com
EDITOR:	Mary Maier
	saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

Sell it Through the Newsletter

Every member may submit one ad per newsletter. This includes a *Wanted to Buy* or *Wanted to Sell*. The newsletter comes out at the beginning of March, June, September and December.

Author Instructions



All are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the *Alarm Clock Chapter* newsletter. Please include your name, address and phone number with the article. Although certainly not a complete list, suggestions for topics are:

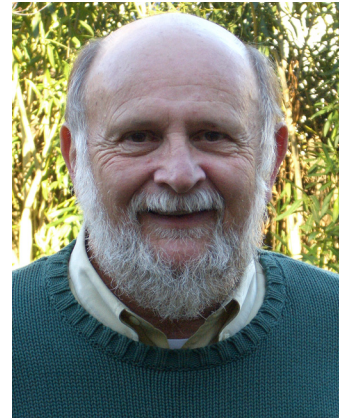
- Specific alarm clocks or manufacturers
- Unique design - movement or case
- Special methods of cleaning
- Descriptions of interesting repairs
- History of a manufacturer
- Helpful tips on repair

Photos along with the text are always appreciated. Please email to the editor at:

saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

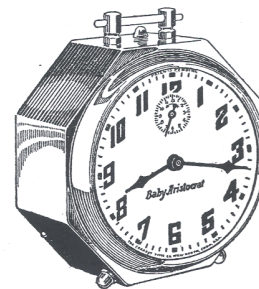
President's Corner

As was announced in the last newsletter, I have decided to step down as your President. It's because of my love for alarm clocks and my admiration for Howard Banta that I have supported both Mary Maier and Mike Wilson build this Chapter into one of the best in the NAWCC. However, I believe it is time for a new leader who has new ideas and energy to enable this Chapter to continue to be great; have the best newsletter, and be a continued tribute to our founder, Howard Banta.



I will continue to help and assist the promoting of the Chapter and I hope that you will support the new president as much as you have supported me.

Since my announcement to step down, one member has expressed interest in becoming President. His name is Bob Linkenhofer. I have known Bob for many years and consider him to be an extremely qualified individual. Bob will not only continue where I left off but will lead the Chapter in a new direction that Howard would be proud of.



I would like to personally thank Vince Angell for the tremendous effort he has put into building the HBACC into what it is today. He has helped enormously in gathering support for the club and has been the primary driver in finding new and interesting articles for the newsletter.

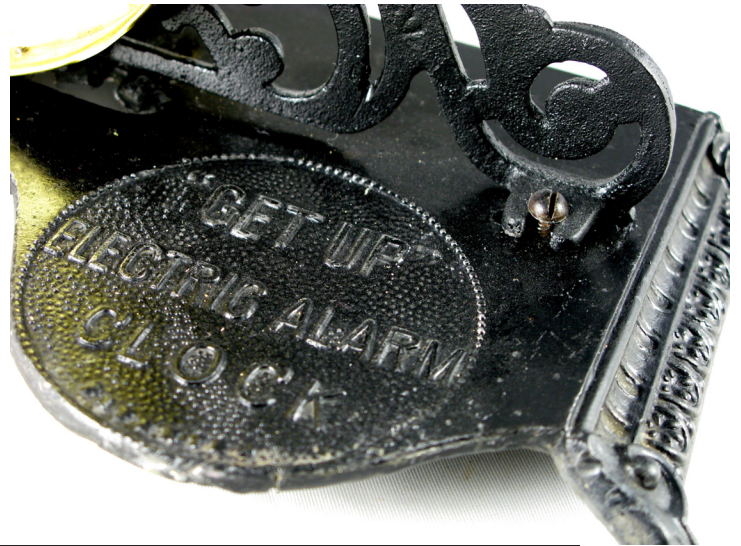
- the Editor

(*) Image of Baby Aristocrat kindly supplied by Dennis Sagvold.

A Rare Darche

As many of you know, I have been collecting Darche alarm clocks for years. I have purchased them in complete condition and in junker condition for their spare parts. I have spent many hours polishing them to get the bright nickel-plating to shine. To my surprise, about a year ago I saw a “parts” clock on ebay. Someone had painted it black, it was missing the clock, and more importantly it was missing some of the cast-iron fretwork.

Because of its poor condition, I was able to pick it up inexpensively. I needed more parts and was happy to be the winning bidder.



I received it in about two weeks and to my surprise someone had not painted it black after all. It was designed with a black case at the time of manufacturing. This was the first time I had ever seen this “Get Up Electric Alarm Clock” cast iron model other than nickel-plated one.

Now what was I to do about the missing left-hand fretwork? Fortunately, I have collected these clocks for years and have about three nickel-plated examples of this model with complete castings. I took each casting off its clock and tried it on the new clock. Only one was the right fit. I gave it to a friend and he had it rough cast from the original piece. After cleaning it up with a Dremel tool I primed and painted

it and fortunately was able to match both color and patina very closely. After attaching my spare clock and polishing the existing bell with “Mothers” polish I now have probably the rarest of all the Darches that I own. Just as I make this statement I will inevitably find another.

If you would like to find out more about The Darche Clock Company enter the following link into your computer. There is both a history of the company and pictures of a few clocks.

<http://www.acc178.org/a/darche/index.html>

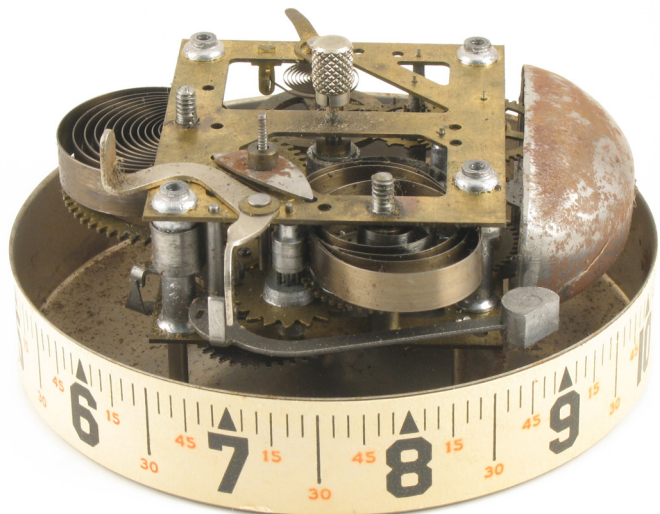
Vince Angell

'What Is It?' Continues

Jim Davis asked about the alarm (shown at right) in the Volume 4, 2007 newsletter. We are pleased to provide additional information, this time supplied by Bill Stoddard of Bill's Clockworks. Jim Davis questioned the purpose of the three holes located in the bottom of the case. Bill Stoddard notes on his clock the holes are for three rubber pads (as shown in image below) Shown below are detailed images of the alarm previously in Bill's possession.



As an added note these two clocks are in Mark Stein's book on page 189 he has two of the 'Bugle Boys' with the thermometer on top. One is the shorter, the other the taller version with a calendar as well as clock. Both are 30 hour wind.



* Stein, Mark V. *The Collector's Guide to 20th Century Modern Clock: Shelf and Decorative*. Radiomania, November 2000

Super Rare Clock by J. S. Turner

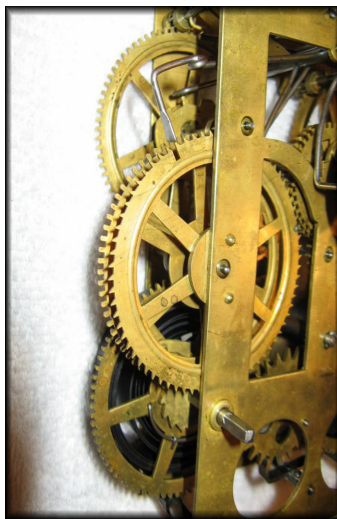
Eight day time and alarm movement
by Jay Doyle*

Jonathan S. Turner invented a very unusual alarm mechanism. Patented in 1852, he used an 8 day movement, with the strike side being the alarm mechanism. He had a double shutoff cam, so once set, it would alarm every day, at the same time, for 8 days. He utilized a count wheel similar to a normal movement, but the count wheel had only one deep cut, for shut off. An alarm type verge, and hammer was geared directly to the great wheel.

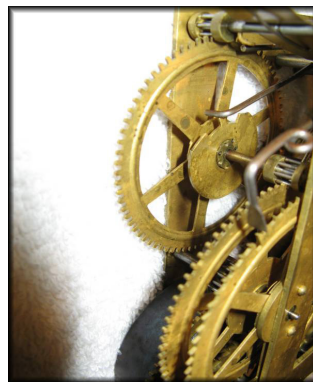
The basic design of the system, is a standard strike system, with a alarm verge attached to the great wheel. A standard alarm setting disk, with the double shutoff on strike cam. When the disk starts to go around, and onto the high edge, the "strike" goes into warning, and stays there the whole 12 hours. When the alarm disk reaches its drop off, the strike train starts to run, but immediately shuts off on the second shutoff cam low spot. Then as the alarm disk goes around for the second 12 hour run, and raise the alarm trip, the "strike" goes into warning for the second time. When it reaches it's alarm drop off point, and the strike train starts (for the second time) it continues to run now. It runs just like a standard strike train, with the count wheel turning, and the count wire lifting, for a full revolution, until the count wire finds the one and only deep cut, and shuts off. This whole process takes 24 hours, two full revolutions of the alarm setting disk.



Great label, and a LARGE bell sure to wake up anyone.



And only one "Off" location on the count wheel



Notice the two low (shutoff) drop off on the cam. Where it's at in this picture, it's in warning for the first 12 hour cycle after alarming.



You have to hear this to believe it. It's no wonder, not to many of these clocks survive today. Most probably got Boot-Smashed about 4 in the morning.

* This article is kindly re-printed with permission from Jay Doyle. His web site is

The Market Place - Sell It In The Newsletter!

Every member can advertise in the newsletter for free. And unlike eBay, no hidden fees and charges. Advertise to other collectors like yourself.

Just email photos and text and your ad will appear in the next newsletter.

Reducing Alarm Clock Collection

Collection includes Westclox and miscellaneous others. Inquires to

Verlyn Kuhlmann

(619) 224-4820;

savoy-clockman@sbcglobal.net

or see at the SWCA Regional (Nov 20-22)

Large Number of Alarms for Sale

I have about 3,000 alarms I am selling. They are predominantly Big Bens and most are in running condition. They range from 'almost new' to needs work'.

If intersted please call

Bill Cress
419-756-3387

Selling Alarms

I have about 30 alarms I would like to sell. They range from very good to simply running condition.

They date in the 1890's to 1950's.

If intersted please call

Bill Meehan

For Sale

New Haven Clock Company
Tidy-Tot
With Original Box

\$25.00
plus shipping

Original box has been cut down on
Both top and bottom half.
Still GREAT IMAGE!

Contact Vince Angell @
phylathome@hotmail.com
or 916-952-4961



Korner

by Ken Reindel*

Bushing Alarm Clock Plates**

Continued from Issue 1, 2008

By the way, anyone out there want to buy a KWM bushing tool??

Here's the basic principle of the system:

1. Procure or turn a piece of brass rod (alloy 360, available from any of the clock suppliers or www.onlinemetals.com) to a size 1.5 to 2 times the diameter of the pivot being fitted. For smaller pivots between 0.010 to 0.025" in diameter, it's good to error on the side of 2 times the diameter so that the bushing wall does not become too thin.

Of course if the hole is worn severely oblong you might have to go a little larger on the blank stock.

2. Open the hole in the plate to just under the size of the brass rod with a broach, coming in from the inside of the plate. "Tweak" this hole until the brass rod just "catches" on the entrance to the hole in the plate.

NOTE: If the hole is worn even slightly oblong, file the worn hole back to center using a small round needle file. This can also be done in progression with care. In other words, start by slightly opening the hole with a broach, then insert the needle file and "move" the hole back to center, broach a bit more, file, etc.

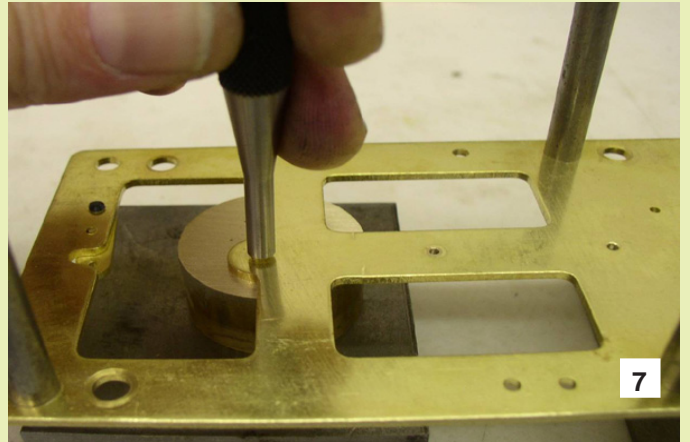
3. Center drill the rod on the lathe to the size of the pivot being fitted. Leave the drilled rod in the lathe.

4. Using the plate as a gauge, begin parting off the bushing to the thickness of the plate. Stop when you are near ready to cut through.

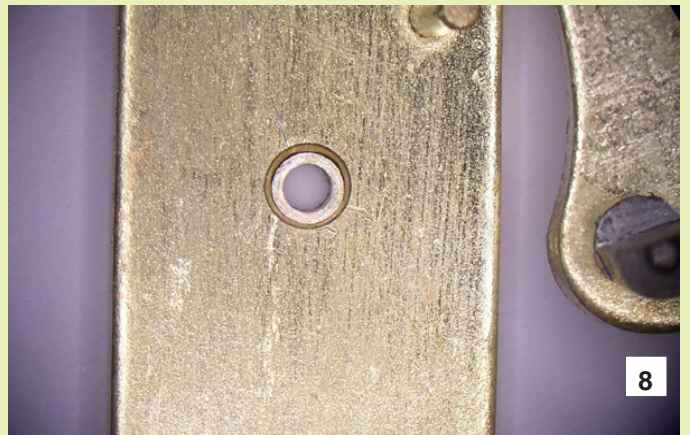
5. Insert the end of the rod, near parted off, into the plate. Rock the plate until the bushing breaks off in the plate. If it does not break off, you didn't part off enough and you might have to turn a new bushing.

6. Stake the bushing into the plate using your watchmakers conical faced staking tools. Use a brass block as a backing to avoid marring the plates. Finish with Timesavers # 13888 Chamfer tools.

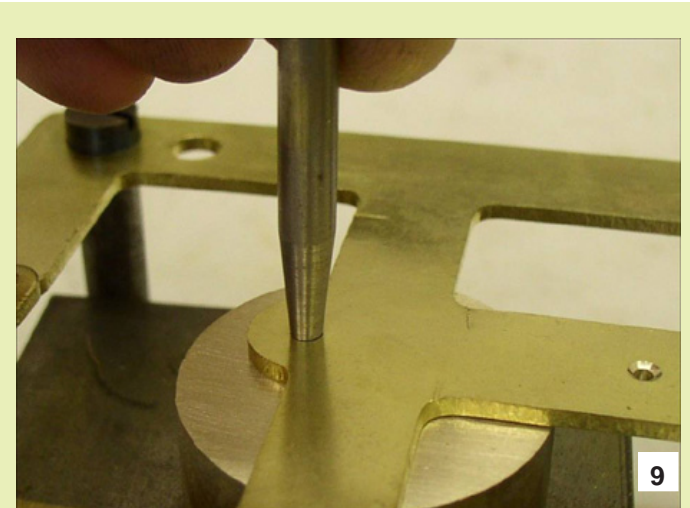
The above process is reviewed in Figures 7 through 12.



Driving home the sleeve.
Note brass block under the plate.



Front view on installed sleeve.



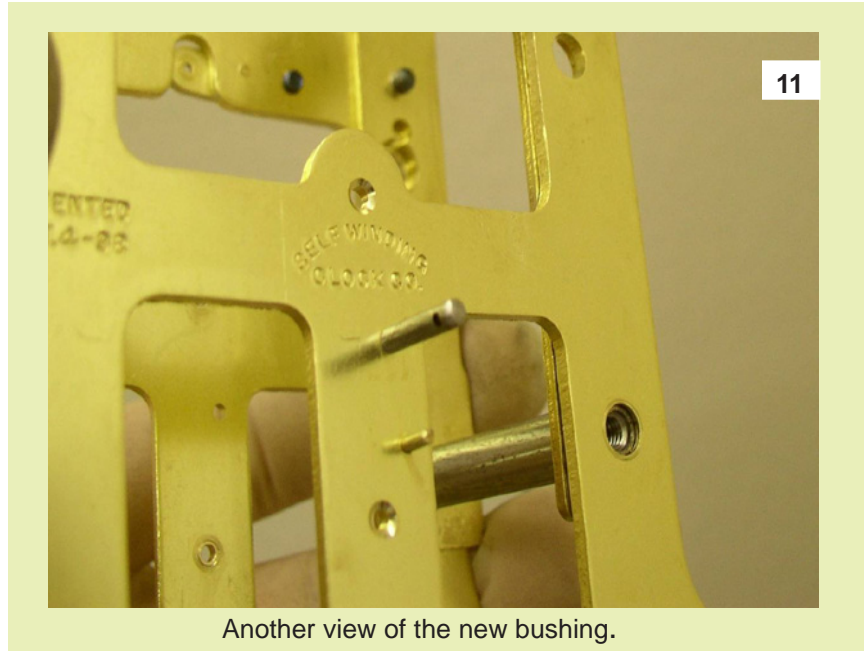
Shaping oil sink.

Bushings-Considerations:

1. Fine clocks should be treated with conservators practices.
2. Bergeon bushings "hog out" enormous holes for the size of the pivot (I never use them on alarms).
3. Keep repair inside oil sink.

Why custom sleeves?

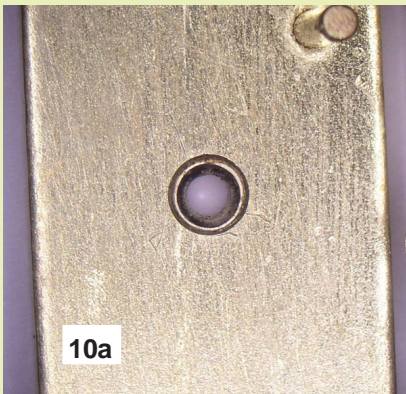
1. Best choice for thin plates.
2. Work hardens hole.
3. Bushing is firmly held in place
 - Bushings will not work their way out!
4. Replicates original oil sink.
5. Oldest, tried and true method of bushing.
6. Provides cosmetically excellent repair.
7. Completely flexible.



11

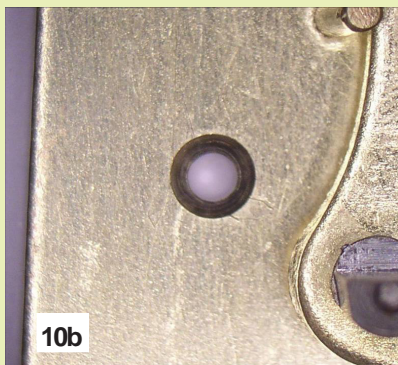
Another view of the new bushing.

Finishing the job.



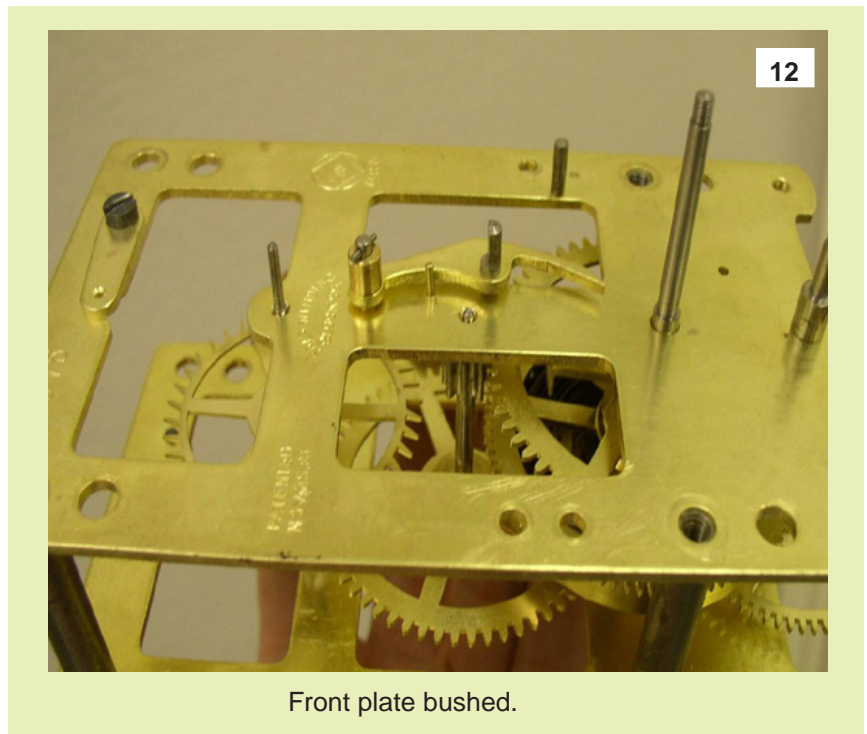
10a

10a. After conical punch.



10b

10b. After fitting, finishing with Burnisher/Countersing tool from Timesavers (#13888)



12

Front plate bushed.



The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter #178 is a special interest chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. As such there is no particular geographic location to which the chapter presides. For this reason members and, in particular, officers may be physically located in any state or country. This ballot is to elect a new president for the Chapter.

The role of the President of the Special Interest Chapter is as follows.

The President represents the Chapter at any and all NAWCC meetings and Conventions that he or she would attend with the responsibility of having a Chapter 178 meeting whenever possible at a Convention that he or she would attend.

The President also writes a President's message in the HBACC Newsletter.

And finally, the President assists the editor in providing information for the newsletters.

We are very pleased that Bob Linkenhofer has expressed interest in taking on the role of President. We feel that his commitment and interest will serve to move the club forward from the wonderful path set by Vince Angell, our current President.

Should you yourself be interested or perhaps know of someone you believe would serve the Chapter well in this role of responsibility, please utilize the 'Write-in' line below.

Bob Linkenhofer

Write-In

Please send completed ballots to

Mary Maier
530 Staples Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112