



**Great Lakes Chapter #6 – NAWCC** 

Newsletter No. 232

October 2023

#### **Chairman's Comments:**

We had a great "All Michigan Meeting" in Brighton. My thanks to all who helped and participated in this wonderful event. Our next meeting will be at Schmidt's auction house in Ypsilanti, on Michigan Ave. There will be tables set up to sell whatever you bring. We will have a "Show and Tell" program, so bring something to share. We will be able to preview what they will be auctioning off within the next week or two at the auction house. Schmidt's is open to the public on Sunday, so maybe we can recruit some new members. Finally, the Chapter donated several clocks to Saint Clair College in Windsor Ontario. Thanks again for another great "All Michigan Meeting", and I look forward to seeing you on October 8th.

Raymond Fowler

Tentative 2023 Chapter Meetings
February 26, April 2, October 8, December 3
Dearborn Masonic Lodge
August 5 "All Michigan Meeting"
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Brighton, MI
Board Meetings: January 5, February 26, July 5,
September 7, November 2

## 2022-23 Chapter Officers

Ray Fowler, President 313-588-5858
Jim Miller, Treasurer 734-718-8563
Tom Morris, Secretary 734-282-1725
Andy Dervan- Historian 313-885-8861
Gordon Webb, Rich Pozniak, and
Charlie Lauhoff, Directors

Joke of the Day: Did you hear about the guy who made a belt out of watches? It was a waist of time.

## **August Chapter Meeting:**

The August Chapter meeting of Great Lakes Chapter Six was held on August 5th, 2023, at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Brighton, MI. About 60 members, wives, and guests, attended the meeting.

It was a beautiful warm summer day, and the parking lot was filled by the time the tailgate started at 9AM. Many items changed hands during the tailgate hour and then the mart moved inside where all 28 tables were sold out. The Mart room became busy with shoppers and conversation. Several members brought items for sale, and the room was busy with shopping and conversation for the next three hours. There were refreshments available throughout the event.

There was a Chapter table for donated items and the table was packed with mantle clocks donated by the family of Joe Haase, a former member. These clocks had been packed away in moving boxes since 1985 according to the newspaper they were wrapped in, and their condition varied widely. Sales were brisk and many members found something on the table that they had to have ranging from a parts clock to clocks that could easily be brought back to life. After this sale, the Chapter donated 10 of the remaining clocks from this batch to Sil Venerus to use in his clock repair class. We still have four more boxes of these clocks that we will bring to Chapter Marts in the future.

Many thanks to all who helped make this event a success. Gordon Webb, and Jim and Kathy Miller for setting up Friday night. Jim and Kathy Miller, Rich Pozniak, and Ray Fowler for clean-up on Saturday. Sara Morris for the refreshments. Howard Ziegel for bringing the excellent donuts. Special thanks to Pierre Poisson, Jon Start, and Larry Kruzel for helping to unpack the donated clocks and to Pierre Poisson for running the 50/50 which was won by Stuart Saunders. And finally, many thanks to all who attended and to Pastor Dale and his wife Colleen for allowing us to use the church for this event.

## **October Chapter Meeting:**

The October Chapter meeting will be held on October 8th, 2023 at 1PM, at Schmidt's Antiques, located at 5138 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI (see map on last page). Chuck Schmidt has graciously offered the use of his facility for the meeting and there will be mart tables and refreshments. Members will also be able to preview items for sale in the annual clock/watch auction that is happening the following weekend. Because of Chuck's generosity, this will be a **FREE** meeting, so please come and bring your items to sell. We will have a "Show and Tell" program, so bring an interesting watch or clock to talk about. This is another member participation program, so we are counting on you to make it successful.

## **Tour of the U of M Telescope:**

One of our members, Brian Murphy, arranged for Chapter members to tour the U of M telescope and other astrological instruments in Ann Arbor on July 26. Ten members and guests attended and were treated to an interesting tour of the facility by Assistant Director Austin Edmister. The facility is actually called the "Detroit Observatory" because it was initially used mainly for determining astrological time for the Michigan Central railroad to set their "Railroad Time". Built in 1854, it is the second oldest building on the U of M campus and is almost hidden by all the University and hospital buildings that have been built around it. The observatory dome houses a 17-foot-long refracting telescope that was state of the art when installed in 1857. Of particular interest to watch and clock people is the "Meridian Room" that was built specifically to determine astrological time. This room has a telescope that can only move north and south along a meridian. As a known object moves across its field of vision, a chronograph determines the exact time and sets a clock that was probably run by wet cell batteries. This time was then telegraphed to the Michigan Central Railroad to set their clocks. Other businesses in Detroit quickly adopted this as "official time". The group had a late lunch at Angelo's Restaurant. Many thanks to Brian and Austin for a very enjoyable day.

#### **New Members:**

Todd Townley and Jan Cislo recently joined the Chapter. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome if you see them at a future meeting.

## **Member Emeritus:**



The Board recently named Mel Anderson a "Member Emeritus" of the Chapter. Mel, who will turn 99 years old in September, has been a longtime Chapter and NAWCC member, a Chapter officer and Board member, and ran the Great Lakes Regionals for many years. He has extensive clock knowledge and expertise that he has willingly shared with us over the years. As a "Member Emeritus" he will continue to be a Chapter member without having to pay dues as a thank you for all he has done for the Chapter. We look forward to helping him celebrate his  $100^{th}$  birthday next year.

## **Ellison Auction:**

An auction of Bill Ellison's collection will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10AM (9AM preview) at the business location at 20366 Harper Ave (I-94 service drive) in Harper Woods, MI. Stanton's Auctioneer's will be handling the event and info will be on their website soon, <u>Upcoming Auctions - Stanton's Auctioneers & Realtors (stantons-auctions.com)</u>

# **Pictures Page**



**Detroit Observatory** 



The Meridian Circle



Fitz Telescope



All Michigan Meeting Mart Room



All Michigan Meeting Tailgate

## Schmidt's Antiques 5138 Michigan Ave (US 12) Ypsilanti, MI



Tom Morris 2206 Davis Wyandotte, MI 48192