

CAWCG NEWS

February 2009

Capital Area Watchmaker and Clockmaker Guild, Central Texas Affiliate Chapter
American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute (AWCI)
<http://www.cawcg.org>

This Month's Meeting

NEW LOCATION!!!

Tuesday, February 24, 2009
5:30 PM (Dinner) 6:00PM (Program)

Pok-E-Jo's Smokehouse (BBQ)
2121 Parmer Lane (near Metric Blvd.)

512-491-0430

<http://www.pokejos.com>

Program: Horological Show and Tell
Items beginning with "M"
Mundane Movement = penalty fine!

Please see *map* on page 2.

PRESIDENT:

Don Bugh

d-bugh@suddenlink.net

(979) 690-2736

VICE PRESIDENT:

Rob Putney

Putney@us.ibm.com

(512) 255-9406

TREASURER:

Hugh Lindsay

hugh@txcyber.com

(979) 693-6161

SECRETARY:

Carrie Williams

carrie@simplertimeclocks.com

(512) 788-5125

EDUCATION/PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Mary Ellen Bell

salembriage@yahoo.com

(979) 693-0488

WEBMASTER:

Michael Williams

mike@simplertimeclocks.com

(512) 788-5125

From the President:

By Don Bugh

Think back to the early 1600's, when the Pilgrims bravely resided in the New World and into the 1700's, as the American colonies were being organized and eventually formed the United States. Have you ever wondered what our forefathers used to keep track of their day? It is thought that there were no true clockmakers found in the colonies during the 1600's. Any clocks present at that time were likely brought to the New World by a few wealthy colonizers. The occasional clockmaker that advertised their service during those the 1600's likely only repaired the imported clocks that found their way to the New

Please see *President's Message* on page 3

Thank you to:
 ~ Dan Havlik~
 And
 ~ Rusty Horn ~
 (See page 3.)

Our condolences are
 extended to . . .
 (See #2 - current page.)

**What do Batteries and
 Door Prizes have in
 common?**

(See note from Mary
 Ellen on page 4.)

Regionals!

**Lone Star in Mesquite
 And
 Great Southwestern in
 New Braunfels**
 (See page 4.)

Pok-E-Jo's is located at
 2121 Parmer Lane
 between Metric and
 Mopac in North Austin.

News:

Education:

By David Douglas

Basic pocket watch course will be held March 7, 2009 at the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches in Lockhart. It will be using Swiss pocket watches.

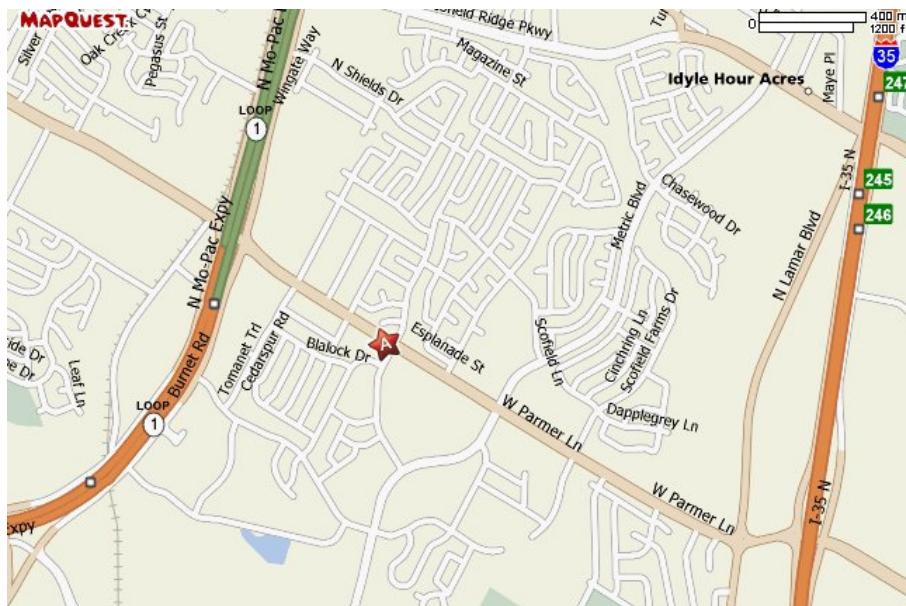
Treasurer's Report:

Fiscal report: (From January's Newsletter)
 Operating account-- \$4212.25
 Education account-- \$9494.10

Very Important News:

1. According to our bylaws, we were supposed to elect new officers during the January meeting. However, since our meeting was cancelled, our elections will be held this month. (~~ You know what happens to people who don't show up to meetings when they aren't there to decline their nomination, don't you??? ~~)
2. Our condolences are extended to Jack Whisenhunt's family. Jack, a former Chapter 15 President, passed away this past week in San Antonio.

Map from page 1



President's Message from page 1

World from England, France and Germany.

By 1700, the population and wealth had grown to a point in Boston, New York and Philadelphia that some clockmakers were able to make a living by making clocks rather than simply repairing existing imported clocks. Virtually all clocks made in the colonies before 1775 were tall case clocks. The cases for these clocks were typically made by local cabinetmakers, not the clockmakers. As these clocks were made "one clock at a time", they were extremely expensive and only the most wealthy and influential could hope to own one. The introduction of wooden works clocks between 1725 and 1750 reduced the cost such that some of the middle class could now own a clock. But it was not until Eli Terry began mass producing clocks in 1802, that the price became low enough for the working class to consider ownership. (Early manufactured watches didn't begin until 1835 and it was not until after 1850 before any degree of success was achieved in the mass production of watches.)

Thus up until 1800, unless the working man lived close to a public clock, his timekeeper was the sun. Sundials were common throughout the colonies. (The sundial indicates time by the position of a gnomon's shadow cast by the sun on the face of a dial marked in hours.) Those that could not afford a sundial used an inexpensive technique of drawing noon marks somewhere in their house (a window sill for example). The crossing of the sun's shadow on the line would indicate local noon. Even as clocks (and later watches) became less expensive and more reliable through the 1800's, sundials and noon marks were used as a reference point for

setting clocks and watches to the correct time - especially at local noon when the local time could be precisely determined. Of course, when the United States adopted standard time in 1883, sundials and noon marks lost their relevancy as local time was no longer observed.

One thing that has not changed over the years is the unpredictability of weather! Due to the predictions of freezing rain hitting the Austin area during the time of our January Guild meeting, the officers felt it would be best to cancel the meeting. As it turned out, the predictions were far worse than the actual event, but we erred on the side of caution. I understand that Dan Havlik and Rusty Horn braved the cold and successfully found their way to Pok-E-Jo's to meet any members that didn't get the word that the meeting was cancelled. We tried our best to reach all members by telephone and email, however in the end, we missed a few. My apologies - but hopefully Dan and Rusty kept you entertained!

For the February meeting, we'll try it again at Pok-E-Jo's - the Guild's new meeting location (see map on page 2.) And since everyone had their horological items beginning with the letter "M" ready to go for January, Mary Ellen tells me that we are going to use that as our program for February. So be sure not to **Miss the Meeting!**

I'll see you there!

Don

(Primary source for the above: Clock and Watchmaking in America - Chris Bailey)

Program, Batteries and Door Prizes:

By Mary Ellen Bell

Since everyone had some wonderful horological "M" things ready last month, we will have the January program of "M" things in February. I don't want to disappoint you by canceling the program.

The other thing is a request for everyone to bring a door prize to give away.

And finally, a friendly reminder that the Guild collects and recycles used batteries for our monthly recycle program. So, as you collect used batteries, bring them to any of our meetings, give them to me and I will take them to the recycling center.

Upcoming Events

March 6-7	Lone Star Regional Mesquite http://www.chapter124.com/RegPag.htm	April 17-18	Great Southwestern Regional New Braunfels http://www.nawcc-chapter15.org/SouthwesternRegional.htm
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Texas Watchmakers Association
 1947 — 50th Anniversary — 1997
 Austin, Texas