

CAWCG NEWS

April 2009

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

This Month's Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

5:30 PM (Dinner) 6:00PM (Program)

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

512-491-0434

<http://www.pokejos.com>

Program:

Unusual Clocks

Presenter:

Dave Arnold

Please see *map* on page 2.

PRESIDENT:

Don Bugh

d-bugh@suddenlink.net

(979) 690-2736

VICE PRESIDENT:

Rob Putney

rob.putney@sbcglobal.net

(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

salembridge@yahoo.com

(979) 693-0488

WEBMASTER:

Michael Williams

mike@simplertimeclocks.com

(512) 788-5125

From the President:

By Don Bugh

Ok, I admit it. April is not my favorite month. It has nothing to do with the end of winter and the beginning of Spring - no problem with that. It's the dreaded annual ritual of preparing my income taxes that I dislike. It could be worse though, at least the United States has not imposed a tax on clocks and watches as was once done by our neighbors across the pond!

In 1797, England introduced the Clock Tax. The tax covered all timepieces, including watches and clocks. The annual tax rate was two shillings and sixpence (half a crown) for a basic watch

Please see *President's Message* on page 3

Check with Sue Ann Wysong about what she would like to sell! - (Items are not coming to the Auction.)

Guild Auction
April 25, 2009
Northwest Baptist Church
6301 Woodrow
Setup Begins: 8:00
Auction Begins: 10:00

(See map on page 6.)

AUCTION NEWS

Auctioneer:
Terry Palmer

Pricing:
Dan Havlik
Rusty Horn

Paperwork:
Pat Holloway
Carrie Williams

Money Handling:
Hugh Lindsay

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

News:

Education:

The pocket watch course on April 11th went very well. Our thanks go to David and his entourage for all of your hard work and effort. Thank you Gene for providing museum space for the class.

Treasurer's Report:

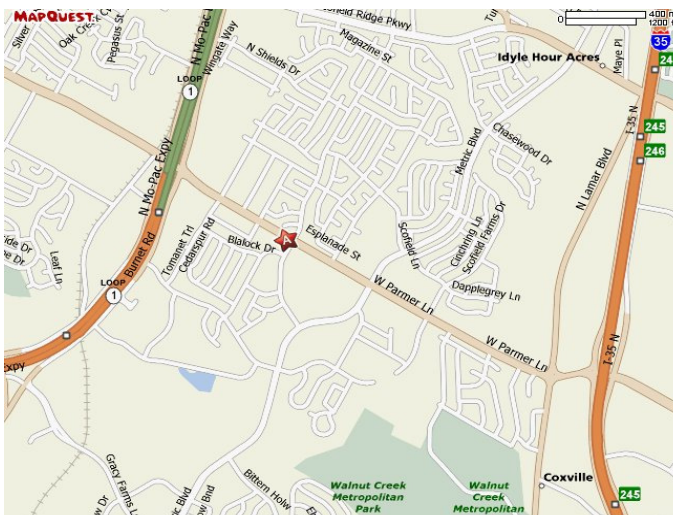
Fiscal report:

Operating account-- \$4196.21
Education account-- \$9469.10

News:

1. Our Auction will be on April 25th. Terry Palmer will be our auctioneer.
2. If anyone has any early documents connected with Texas Watch Association (TWA) please let Don Bugh know.
3. Only watch batteries can be accepted for recycling - NO hearing aid batteries are accepted. Proceeds go to the Guild.
4. Christmas party location was tabled until next month.
5. We currently have 52 dues paying members.

Map from page 1



President's Message from page 1

up to ten shillings for a gold watch. Clocks costing more than 20 shillings (one pound) were rated at five shillings. Some groups were exempt such as hospitals, the Royal Family and, of course, Parliament itself.

As a response to the tax, and because public clocks were exempt from the tax, many public buildings and institutions put up their own large clocks on display to the public. Canny operators would put the clock *inside* their premises. This was especially common in taverns. So, whilst you were checking the time for free you could down a quick pint.

These clocks are known as tavern clocks or Act Clocks - an example is shown below:



Predictably, the Clock Tax was extremely unpopular. People simply stopped buying new clocks and watches. The clockmakers as well as their suppliers soon found their businesses to be in jeopardy. The tax was repealed after less than a year.

Of course, public clocks and tavern clocks had been around before and are still around today. Not all tavern clocks are Parliament clocks and vice versa, although the terms are often used interchangeably. Strictly speaking the term "Parliament clock" applies to those produced during the period of the clock tax.

The Guild's March meeting had another great turnout. Gene Galbraith set up a very nice example of the 1757 Ben Franklin Clock and presented an excellent program on the clock as well.

The next Guild event will be the annual Guild auction to be held on Saturday, April 25th at Cully's church. (The details and map are included in this newsletter) We will have plenty of room so keep looking for those pesky watches, clocks and tools that are cluttering up your home and workshop. Anxious buyers await! Thanks to those that have volunteered to assist with the auction - we couldn't do it without your help.

David Arnold has the April program and will make a presentation on unusual clocks. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

I'll see you at the meeting!

Program, Education, Batteries and Door Prizes:

By Mary Ellen Bell

Gene Galbraith provided a wonderful presentation on the 1757 Benjamin Franklin Wall Clock last month.

If you picked something up at the Regional and are wondering, “Now, why did I get this?” think about donating it as a door prize or bring it to the auction. As you know, door prizes are always welcome!

Plans for clock repair class may be postponed until late summer.

Upcoming Events

April 25	Guild Auction Northwest Baptist Church (aka Cully's church) 6301 Woodrow Austin
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SPRING AUCTION

SATURDAY

APRIL 25, 2009

UNLOADING AND SETUP: 8:00 AM

AUCTION BEGINS: 10:00 AM

**NORTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH
GYMNASIUM**

(A.K.A. CULLY'S CHURCH)

6301 WOODROW

AUSTIN, TEXAS

(Please park behind the gym.)

Northwest Baptist Church

