



CAWCG NEWS

August 2009

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

LOCATION IS NOT CHANGING! This Month's Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 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:

Pocket Watch Keys

Presenter:

Pat Holloway

Please see *map* on page 2.

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From the President:

By Don Bugh

From the President:

Do you pay much attention to the scratch marks often found on clock movements or on the inside of watch cases? On clock movements, they seem to fall into two categories. The first were apparently used to aid in the reassembly. Examples include a large "S" scratched into the strike barrel and "T" into the time barrel. On occasion, I see the complete strike and time train marked as "S1", "S2", etc. (I suspect these were left by a nervous amateur.) Humorously, I sometimes find

Please see *President's Message* on page 3

NEW MEMBER:

Welcome,
Roger Spillar.

Nino made a bunch of the Huck's Magic Center Finders, and sold them at the guild meeting, with all proceeds going to the guild.

~ Thank you, Nino.

Bring old watch batteries to future guild meetings. We recycle them with proceeds going to the guild.



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

News:

Education:

Be looking for possible watch repair courses in the future dealing with hairsprings, mainsprings, and oiling.

Treasurer's Report:

Fiscal report:

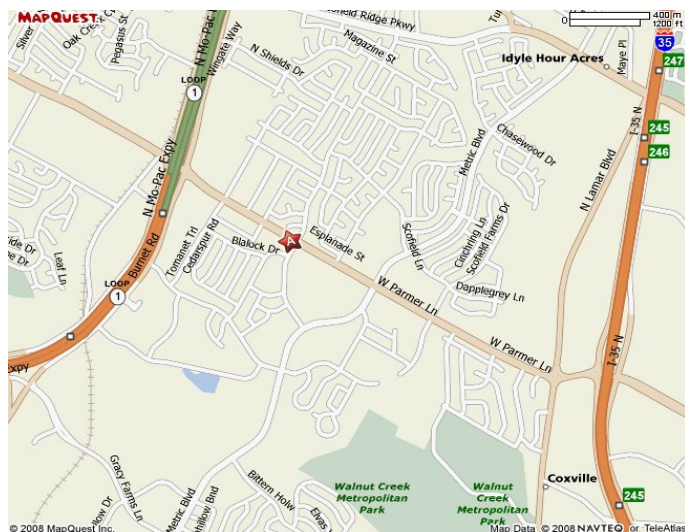
Operating account-- \$4,324

Education account-- \$9,769

News:

1. There was discussion concerning moving to a new meeting place because of cramped quarters in our Pok-e-Jo's meeting room.
2. A menu was circulated at the meeting with 17 more typical chicken, beef, and pork Chinese dishes highlighted on it, these 17 dishes ranging in price from \$7.50-\$9.95.
3. A vote was taken, with 15 voting to move, and 11 voting not to. We will meet at the new place for 3 months, and then at that time we will vote again to see if we would like to stay there.
4. AWCI contacted Don concerning whether we were sending a delegate to the Convention being held Aug. 6 in Rhode Island. \$300 reimbursement is being provided by AWCI. Nobody at the meeting volunteered to be a delegate, so Dennis Warner, who is on the AWCI Board, and who had planned on being at the convention, will represent us.

Map from page 1



President's Message from page 1

conflicting information –for example, I have found both “S” and “T” marked on the same barrel.

The second type of mark typically documented a service date and the repairer's initials or a unique repairer's mark provided by the AWCI. Older marks might also detail the repairs that were made.

A story circulated a few months ago about Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch and what was found inside. There were indeed scratch marks left – but they were not the typical watchmaker marks as described above.

The year was 1861. When Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, the debate over slavery was dividing the nation and the southern states were seceding from the Union. Lincoln warned that he would not stand for secession. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter – the official beginning of the Civil War. Surrender of the Fort occurred on April 13th.

Well removed from the war, Jonathan Dillon a watchmaker working for M. W. Galt & Company (a watch shop located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.) was working on Lincoln's gold pocket watch.



As the story goes, Mr. Walt hurried upstairs to tell Mr. Dillon that the “War has begun; the first shot has been fired.” Mr. Dillon reported to a New York Times reporter in 1906 that “at that moment, I had in my hand Abraham Lincoln's watch, which I had been repairing.” Apparently inspired by the turn of events, Mr. Dillon scratched onto the movement these words:

“Jonathan Dillon April 13 – 1861 Fort Sumter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J. Dillon.” Inspired to do more, he continued with “April 13, 1861 Washington thank God we have a government Jonth Dillon.” Curiously the name of the Confederacy President “Jeff Davis” also appears along with another watchmaker's repair marks.



The story remained dormant until the Smithsonian Museum was contacted in February of this year by Doug Stiles - Dillon's great, great-grandson. Stiles reported to the museum curator that rumors of the secret message had been talked about by his family for years. After searching through the archives of the New York Times, he located the April, 1906 interview. With that as his proof, Stiles asked if the watch could be opened to confirm whether a message was indeed there. In March, the watch was publically opened and the inscription was confirmed.

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Not much is known about the watch other than it was made in Liverpool in the 19th century and fitted inside a gold case made in the United States. The Smithsonian acquired the watch in 1958 through a bequest by a great-grandson.

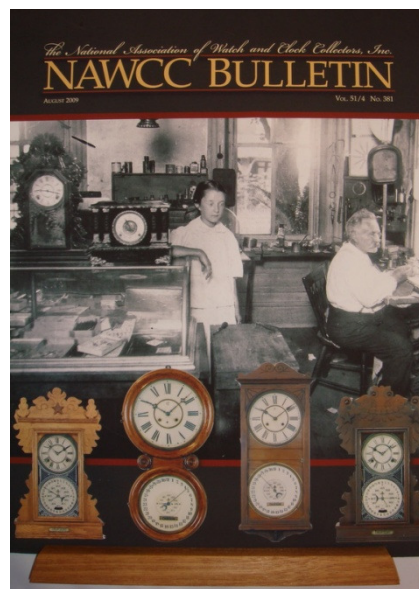
A short video on the opening of Lincoln's watch can be found on YouTube at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hcMctdu-fs>

Back to business – at our July Guild meeting, we had a rather interesting discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of moving the meeting location of the Guild. Despite a vote to change location on a three month trial basis – guess what folks – **we're not moving!** **The Guild meeting location will continue to be at Pok-e-Jo's!** It seems that the manager of the Fortune Chinese Restaurant changed her mind. She would allow the Guild to meet there only if we were to pre-pay for the dinner and guarantee a certain number of dinners. Obviously we can't do that. Pok-e-Jo's is a bit small but we'll have to make it work!

Also at our July Guild meeting, Mary Ellen and I made a presentation on Charles Feichtinger and his clocks. The article "In Search of Charles Feichtinger" that we co-authored can be found in the August issue of the NAWCC Bulletin.

Feichtinger's shop in Sinking Spring, PA (circa 1910) along with four of his clocks appear on the cover.



Pat Holloway has the August program and will give a talk on the history of watch keys. Pat has been collecting watch keys for some time and is very knowledgeable so don't miss it! Unfortunately, my job requires me to be in Houston that night so I and not attend. However, I am going to leave you in the very capable hands of Vice President Rob Putney.

I will see you at the September meeting or at the Houston Regional!

