

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC)
Chapter 154 – Daytona Beach, Florida
www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com

July 2010 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING & MART

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Doors Open at 9:00 am

Meeting Includes:

- * **Mart Table is included (bring your items to sell or trade.)**
- * **Meet old friends and make new friends.**
- * **Full Buffet Lunch.**

Presentation: Part 2 - Vintage 1940s Hamilton Watch Company Factory History (short film presentation.)

The practice of precision watch making at the Hamilton factory in Lancaster, Pennsylvania is highlighted.

- From the Private Collection of: John Siewiorek
- Open Discussions & Show and Tell



REGISTRATION AND DUES

Annual Chapter Dues are \$8.00 per year

The Mart, Meeting, with a **Full Course Buffet Lunch included** is \$15.00 per person. Also included is a Free Mart Table.

INSIDE THE JULY 2010 ISSUE

- 1 Meeting, Mart, Registration and Dues Information
- 2 **Article:** The Chapter's Website gets a complete overhaul
Article: Timing has a lot to do with avoiding train disasters – the development of the Railroad Pocket Watch
- 3 **Article:** Olde time: Iconic colonial clock is ticking again
- 4 NAWCC information – Chapter 154 contact information
Article: Is the Wristwatch Past Its Time?

MEETING PLACE

Duff's Original Buffet
(Banquet Room)

2400 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US1),
South Daytona, Florida

Phone: (386) 788-0828
(located inside the Sunshine Park Mall)

The Chapter's Website gets a complete overhaul

By Randy Jaye

Out with the old and in with the new. After three and a half years on line the chapter's website (www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com) has been completely overhauled using a new software program and now has a modern look and feel.

I created the original chapter website with Microsoft's FrontPage 2003 software. Microsoft stopped supporting this software product a couple of years ago. It has been replaced by newer, faster and more stable products. Since the FrontPage 2003 software is obsolete, computer hackers have been finding ways to hack into the websites that are still running this old software and damage code, insert malware and viruses. I thought it was time to get the old website off line and build a new one before our chapter's website fell victim to one of these cyberspace hooligans.

The new site is currently on line. Other new pages and information from the old website will be getting transferred in the near future.

The new website building software I am using is called WebPlus X4. It has a lot of bells and whistles and follows professional standards. Some of the features include blogs, forums, a PhotoLab and E-commerce tools.

The new chapter website has an up-to-date look and feel about it and complies with the newer design trends (fourth generation web sites) of today's internet world.

Check it out and let me know what you think. Also, if you have any suggestions, additions or improvement ideas let me know.

Timing has a lot to do with avoiding train disasters – the development of the Railroad Pocket Watch

Source: Old Railroad Watches

By the year 1880 there was over one hundred thousand miles of railroad track in North America. And there were countless switches, signals and side tracks. Hundreds of trains operated daily chugging on and off of those side tracks to avoid two trains sharing the same track in opposing directions. In those days, without radios, cell phones or GPS devices, all trains needed to start or stop at precisely scheduled times. Trains were required to pass certain track switches at certain times, and that was the role of the railroad watch. Get it wrong and disaster would strike.

However, there was a major problem in this scheduling system. That problem was the country had yet to adopt a time standard. In that era every village, town and major city in the U. S. operated on its own time, determined by the "sun" at its particular location. There were 50 different "times" in use by the various railroads. Those responsible for operating the trains had to constantly be aware of ever changing "time zones" and adjust their schedules accordingly. This was no easy feat.

Add to this mix the fact that the reliability and accuracy of timepieces in that era is also brought to question. Conductors and engineers had only their watches to consult for accurate time, and unfortunately watches of that era just didn't measure up. When two or three minutes could spell the difference between life and death, the precision of watches in the 1880s was woefully inadequate. Eventually the railroads were forced to address the "time" issues.

The railroads came up with two remedies to solve the problems. First off, a standard time plan was designed and adopted. Four time zones were set up by the railroads -- Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific. (Interestingly, many years later, congress officially established the time zones set up by the railroads, as a national standard.) And second, a program was embarked upon to encourage the watch industry to create very accurate, very durable timepiece for conductors.

In 1893, the General Railroads Timepiece Standards Commission presented guidelines for "railroad" watches. Approved watches would have to be accurate to within 30 seconds over a span of a week. They would also need to be impervious to extreme temperature swings common to the rail industry. They would have to be easy to read, with Arabic numerals. The orientation in which they were held could not affect their performance. And most importantly, they were required to be inspected on a regular basis. Thus was born the railroad watch. Manufacturers of the day responded by creating timepieces that would meet the demanding requirements of railroads. And these new timepieces had an effect on the rail industry that was quickly apparent. Accidents and collisions were significantly reduced as the entire rail system became predictable. The United States continued to move into the industrial revolution on the back of its railroads. And now it was safely "on time".



Olde time: Iconic colonial clock is ticking again

Source: Boston.com (**Publication Date:** December 21, 2009 04:15 PM)

By Jack Nicas, Globe Correspondent

After two timeless years, the Old South Meeting House clock began ticking again today.

New gold-leafed, 4-foot hands were affixed to the 243-year-old clock, ending an extensive 11-month restoration that removed the entire mechanism out of the building for the first time since it was installed in 1770.

Just before 1 p.m., Horologist David Hochstrasser cranked the shiny brass gears he had tirelessly scrubbed clean, giving life to the 7-foot pendulum hanging below.

"It's gorgeous, isn't it," asked David Webb, a craftsman who restored the South-facing dial and recreated the North one.

"It has been such a community icon for Downtown Crossing," said Robin DeBlosi, marketing director for Old South. "When that clock loses a minute of time we start getting phone calls, so it's wonderful it's still true."

The two 9-foot clock faces debuted a new look, black paint coated with ground glass. Restorers discovered evidence of the smalt coating when they analyzed the faces under a microscope; it was the original finish on the nearly quarter-ton clocks when they were created in the mid-19th century to replace older dials.

"They probably had that finish for 20 to 30 years, but haven't been back to a true smalt until now," said Wendall Kalsow, a principal architect with McGinley Kalsow & Associates Inc., the Somerville-based restoration firm heading the project. "When the sun hits it, it just sparkles -- a shimmer like a little jewel in the air."

The clock is believed to be the oldest running clock in the state, and one of the three oldest tower clocks still running in its original location in the country, said Paul Foley, a clock historian.

The relic was shut down in late 2007 because its hands were damaged. Old South officials knew it needed restoring, but did not have the necessary funds. Then an anonymous donor contacted the historic building's board.

"We were incredibly fortunate that an interested donor offered to fund the entire project," said Emily Curran, executive director of Old South. "It was sort of a dream come true."

The \$100,000 project has now revived a clock that kept time during the shaping of the nation.

In 1770, the timepiece hung outside as hundreds of angry Bostonians gathered at Old South the day after the Boston Massacre, forcing the British governor to remove troops from the city, Curran said.

Three years later, the Sons of Liberty passed under the clock on their way to Griffin's Wharf to dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor, she said.

The city then purchased the clock for 80 pounds in 1774 and maintained it until 1922. It served an important social service to early residents, as many did not own clocks or watches, Foley said.

Now, with the ubiquitous cell phone, the clock is not as essential to daily life as it once was. But it's still a signature city sight.

James Poulos's office on Washington Street affords one of the best views of the clock.

It's just an unbelievable landmark. I've been here for four years and it became a part of my day; now it will be again," said Poulos, assistant director of development at the AIDS Action Committee. "To me, it's Downtown Crossing."



Globe photo/ Bill Greene

Horologist David Hochstrasser adjusting the hands on the clock at the Old South Meeting House.

The Daytona Beach, Chapter 154, of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. (NAWCC)¹ is dedicated to preserving the history, art and science of timekeeping (horology). NAWCC is a nonprofit scientific organization that serves as a unique educational, cultural, and social resource for its membership and the public at large.

Our members include hobbyists, students, educators, casual collectors, clock makers, watch makers, jewelers and professionals in related retail and manufacturing trades.

¹ The **National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors** (NAWCC) is an American non-profit organization with about 20,000 members. The NAWCC was founded in 1943 by members of the *Horological Society of New York* and the *Philadelphia Watchmakers' Guild* who wished to create a national organization. The membership is now divided into over 175 "Chapters" which can be based on a locality or a special interest. The vast majority of chapters are US location based, a number are also in Canada and Australia (which do not have national horological collectors associations) and a handful are elsewhere. Special interest chapters range from "Tower Clocks" to "Horological Science".

Contact Information **(NAWCC - Chapter 154 -** **Daytona Beach)**

Chapter Officers (2010)

President: Randy Jaye

(407) 497-5755

Secretary/Treasurer: Viviane Lindeolsson

Vice-President: Jim Ziesler

Director: Ed Epp

Director: Tom Bransford

Website: www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com

Is the Wristwatch Past Its Time?

By William George Shuster, Senior Editor

This story appears in the [March 2007 issue of JCK Magazine](#).

Total U.S. watch sales slipped 4.9 percent between 2001 and 2005 to \$7.6 billion, says the 2006 U.S. watch and clock market report of Packaged Facts, a product research firm. The report cites cell phones, cable boxes, computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, and even DVD players as providing "all the time readouts one needs." It also notes that those products "siphon off" discretionary dollars through monthly use and service payments, leaving less money to spend on watches.

Watches most affected seem to be those priced at \$100 or less, and with distribution weighted to teens and young adults—reports last year said sales for some brands popular with young adults fell short of projections. Articles and blogs spun all this further with headlines like "The Watch Is Dead" and "End of the Watch Era."

But a closer look at the watch business suggests a different picture. While some watches, especially those priced under \$100, are pressured, most leading brands are doing well. Among those reporting healthy business, including sales to young adults, are Timex, which accounts for a third of U.S. watch sales; E. Gluck Corp. (with brands AK, Anne Klein New York, Armitron, JLo, Nine West, Trump); Sequel International, a division of the Timex Group (Guess Collection, Guess Watches); Bulova Corp. (Accutron, Bulova, Caravelle, Harley-Davidson, Marine Star, Wittnauer); Seiko; Citizen; and Swiss Army. Together, these companies account for much of the popular and midprice watch business in the United States.

Executives at these companies are quick to challenge the watches-are-dead theme. "We sell strong lifestyle-branded products that are very popular in the youth culture," says Sequel International president and chief executive officer Cindy Livingston. "They continue to show strong growth trends, especially in stores catering to the youth market."

Francie Abraham, senior vice president and chief marketing officer at Bulova Corp., says overall sales increased significantly during the past decade and notes that brand awareness is continuing to grow among younger consumers.

At Swiss Army, business is strong and unaffected by the cell phone trend, says president and CEO Sue Rechner. She says the company has "steady sales in collections targeting young adults." The situation, says Livingston, is forcing watches to be more fashionable and accessory oriented. She believes that watches that merely give the time will continue to fade as personal devices spread. "Lifestyle-oriented and fashion-right accessories will continue to drive sales."

So, reports of the watch's demise are, to echo Mark Twain, greatly exaggerated. The watch era isn't ending, it's just changing. "Things change all the time," says Zuckerman. "The watch business is no exception."