



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

# Philadelphia Chapter One

*Chartered November 1, 1943*

The next Chapter One Meeting will be held on:

**October 4, 2015 at the**

**Williamson Banquet and Event Center**

**300 Blair Mill Rd., Horsham, Pa.**

**19044**

**215 675 5454**

**The Speakers for the October 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

The Luncheon Speaker is John Riabov. His topic will be: "Restoring a Chester County tall case clock by Isaac Jackson."

The Workshop Presenter will be: Ashley King. His topic is: "Repairing Jefferson Golden Hour Clocks"

Members may bring their own clocks for repair advice.

**The meeting dates for Chapter One for the remainder of the 2015 year are: November 15, and December 6.**

## **Your Dues for the FY 2015 – 2016 are now due.**

**They are still \$10.00. You may include them in your Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Registration or you can send them to me: Dave Gorrell at 1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, Md. 21108**

**Be sure to include your**

**Name, Current Address, Telephone number and Email Address**

### **The 2015 Summer Picnic;**

On Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter One had its second annual picnic, mart and auction at Merritt's Antiques in Douglassville, Pa. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a good time. The Mart was brisk with 110 members and guests attending. The food was good and plentiful. The newly added auction capped off the event with some very good clocks selling for ridiculously low prices, but every one walked away happy. Merritt's donated some very nice clocks to the Auction and most of them sold well. See our website for pictures: [www.Philadelphia Chapter One Clock and Watch Society](http://www.Philadelphia Chapter One Clock and Watch Society)

### **The "Ships, Clocks, and Stars" tour at the Folgers Library, Washington D.C.**

For those of you who missed the tour and presentation at the Folgers Shakespeare Library on Sat. Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> missed the event of a lifetime. Not only did those 23, who attended, get to see working models of Harrison's H1, H2, H3, they got to see H 4, H 5 as well as Kendall's K1, K2 and K3. On top of that rare treat they enjoyed an excellent "walk through" and presentation by Rory McEvoy, the Curator of Horology at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, England. Not only was his presentation informative but chock full of little known facts, explanations, and interpretations that we rarely get except from one who has spent a lifetime studying this subject as Rory has.. For those poor unfortunates who missed this, there is hope, the entire presentation was taped and will be available through the NAWCC Library in the very near future... The exhibit has been moved to Mystic, Conn, from there it will be taken to Australia, then back home to Greenwich.

**Council Officers 2014 – 2016**

**President Michael Allen**

**30 W. Gravers Lane Philadelphia, Pa. 9118**

**215 242 5923 Fathertime724 @aol.com**

**Vice Presidents**

**Allen Richardson**

**George Morrison**

**610 770 9854 [arichard@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:arichard@cedarcrest.edu)**

**610 384 0388 [watchwldr@verizon.net](mailto:watchwldr@verizon.net)**

**Secretary / Treasurer**

**David Gorrell**

**1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, Md. 21108**

**410 987 5915 443 694 4972 DJGCLOCKS @ AOL.COM**

**Directors**

**2012 – 2016**

**2014 - 2018**

**Charlie Buttz**

**Lee Davis**

**570 595 3306 [Shelters@ptd.net](mailto:Shelters@ptd.net)**

**717 752 7267 [davisleeh66@aol.com](mailto:davisleeh66@aol.com)**

**Colleen Houtz**

**Donald Buck**

**610 921 9572 [choutz@comcast.net](mailto:choutz@comcast.net)**

**301 990 2461 [donald.buck1@gmail.com](mailto:donald.buck1@gmail.com)**

**David Houtz**

**TerryAddison**

**610 921 9572 [choutz@comcast.net](mailto:choutz@comcast.net)**

**215 285 0976 [eta348@yahoo.com](mailto:eta348@yahoo.com)**

**Ken Garrett**

**Jeffrey Fox**

**610 565 5029 [keng@garrettliners.com](mailto:keng@garrettliners.com)**

**215 672 6947 [jeffrey.w.fox@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.w.fox@gmail.com)**

**Michael Plantier**

**Thomas Fluck**

**302 222 9725 [mlplantier@comcast.net](mailto:mlplantier@comcast.net)**

**610 873 1784 [bedbugrow@mac](mailto:bedbugrow@mac)**

**The One day Class for Saturday Oct. 3<sup>th</sup>**

**The Best in Show Contest will be held as usual, so bring those interesting, clocks, watches, tools etc.**

## **HOROLOGY IN HOLLYWOOD by Janet Fox**

“In Time” 2011 is a movie all about time. In this world, “time” is literally money. Each person is bioengineered to live for 25 years. Then a digital display on their forearm gives them a count-down of how much time they have to live. They can earn time from working or loans but they also lose time by paying bills and purchasing items. This is a thinly veiled satire of our capitalistic system. Here the rich not only get richer, they get to be immortal. Meanwhile, the poor get poorer and their lives are short.

The story revolves around Will Salas (Justin Timberlake). He is a common laborer. One night he meets a stranger in a bar. The stranger, Henry Hamilton (Matt Bomer) has over a century of “time” to spend. He lavishly flashes his “time” around. Will warns him that someone will “clean his clock”, that is to rob him. The stranger seems unconcerned and continues to flaunt his “time” around. In walks a minuteman. This is what they call a time thief. He tries to rob the stranger, but Will intervenes and saves Henry’s life. They hide out in an abandoned warehouse for the night. There Henry informs Will how the time system is rigged so that the rich steal “time” away from common people, so they can live long hedonistic lives. Henry has found that while he has a long life, it is meaningless. While Will sleeps, Henry transfers most of his “time” to Will. Henry dies. Will suddenly has more “time” than he ever dreamed possible. Timekeepers (Police), suspect Will of foul play in Henry’s death.

At first, Will tries to help his friends and family, by sharing his “time”. But he is unable to save his mother. In his grief, he wanders off to New Greenwich, the richest “time-zone”. In a casino, he meets Philippe Weis (Vincent Kartheiser ) and his daughter, Sylvia (Amanda Seyfried.) Sylvia is fascinated by Will and invites him to a party at their mansion. While there, the timekeepers arrive to arrest Will. He takes Sylvia as a hostage and escapes. Will tries to ransom Sylvia, but her father refuses to pay. Sylvia is angered that her father would choose “time” over her life. So she joins up with Will.

Together they rob her father’s banks and then distribute the “time” to the poor. Eventually, they realize that they cannot steal enough time to effectively change things, as New Greenwich simply raises prices to compensate. So they return to New Greenwich to break into her father’s vault and steal a million years of “time”. They hope that this will crash the system, which it does.

With time as the key element, the movie frequently focuses on the thirteen digit time displays. The rich have so much “time” that they don’t need to look at their digital displays, while the poor are obsessive in their focus on the displays. As

far as actual timepieces, there are only two regular clocks in the movie. One is a non-descript wall clock in the police station. It is only a utilitarian instrument. The other is an opulent French Mantle Clock in the Weis mansion. Both are only props to distinguish between the settings of the two groups. The movie also uses semantic gymnastics to redefine horologic terms. Instead of being clever, this makes the movie seem silly and contrived. So even though the movie falls flat, it does have a lot of interesting horologic elements.

### **The Story of New York's Sidewalk Clock**

In lower Manhattan, blocks from where the World Trade Center once stood, embedded deep into the sidewalk, is a clock. It's a simple clock, the hours and minutes are neatly displayed by spade hands, while roman numerals and train track minutes markers circle the dial. All of this is cloudy, but visible under the scratched and stained crystal that occupies a break in the pavement at the intersection of Maiden Lane and Broadway. And it has been ticking away there, under the feet of Manhattan, for over a century.

In 1896, Manhattan jeweler William Barthman decided to place a clock in the sidewalk outside his eponymous jewelry store as a way to lure customers in the door. His original contraption was a three-window jump hour clock, mechanical with a technologically innovative battery backup. It was even illuminated by hidden lightbulbs after dark. The clock was designed by Mr. Barthman along with store employee Frank Homm, a process which took over two years. The finished clock was installed in the fall of 1899 and became a public curiosity immediately.

In a world of analog clocks, the Barthman clock was alien in the turn-of-the-century New York landscape. Only a decade before, New York had been lit by gaslight, and the municipal arc light system was still considered a modern marvel. The clock would have been one of the only other objects lighting up lower Manhattan after dark. "Perhaps the most novel device in time-recording instruments is the sidewalk clock displayed in front of the store of William Barthamn," The Technical World Magazine proclaimed in September 1906. "The hour and minute numerals revolve as in a panorama before an opening in the sidewalk." The clock would remain this way for just over 40 years, though not without issue.

Though Mr. Barthman had dreamed up the idea for the clock, Frank Homm had been the technical mastermind behind its creation and maintenance. He was in charge of regulating the clock almost daily, and it often needed minor repairs. But

in July 1932, *The New Yorker* chronicled Barthman's struggles with keeping the flip clock accurate after Homm's death in 1917: "The clock behaved perfectly until the ingenious Mr. Homm died...Nobody but Mr. Homm seemed to understand it and after he passed away it took to having hallucinations and going on tears occasionally, and sometimes the Barthmans would have to go out and hide their shame with a piece of cardboard." Vibrations from the subway tunnels beneath, constant disturbances from footsteps above, and wear-and-tear dealt by the elements meant the clock needed constant attention if it was to run accurately.



It turned out that in Homm's absence, the best solution was to devise a new clock entirely. Sometime around 1940, Barthman swapped out Homm's jump hour clock for a more traditional looking round clock. Though modified a few times since its initial installation (including the addition of a large brass bezel), this is the clock you can still find on the downtown corner today. And it was this version of Barthman's clocks that photographer Ida Wyman immortalized in her 1947 photograph.



During the gloomy days of the Depression, coincidentally just after Mr. Homm's death, the clock was failing and erratic day to day. As we geared up for World War II, the clock got a new look and began marching regularly again. More recently, under cloud of smoke and running feet on September 11th, 2001, the clock kept ticking through it all. And when lower Manhattan went dark during Hurricane Sandy, the sidewalk clock stopped too. But, after just a few days, the lights came back on and, just as you would expect, the clock came back to life.

Barthman Jewelers has moved a few doors down Broadway and had a replica clock made to put in front of their new location. But soon you'll be seeing it above the front door of the store, not under foot. When they asked the New York City government for permission to embed the clock out front, the authorities had a simple answer: there is only one New York Sidewalk Clock.



These fragments were taken from the original website. The original story can be found at [www.hodinkee.com](http://www.hodinkee.com). Or to our website at <http://clockandwatchsociety.org>. These fragments were taken from the original website. The original story can be found at [www.hodinkee.com](http://www.hodinkee.com). Or to our website at [www.PhiladelphiaChapterOne Clock and Watch Society](http://www.PhiladelphiaChapterOneClockandWatchSociety.com)

# Philadelphia Chapter One

Registration for the Meeting: October 4, 2015

Advanced Registration (All participants must pay these entrance fees to the MART)

NAWCC Member/ Spouse / Guest \$18.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Child (Age 5 – 17) \$9.00 per child # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL STAY FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_ I WILL NOT STAY FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_

MART TABLE: \$20.00 EACH # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EARLY BIRD (This fee is in addition to the \$18.00 /person entrance fee)

1 or 2 Members only + Spouse or Children \$15.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3 or 4 Members only + Spouse or Children \$23.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names for the Badges (Please Print Clearly)

1) \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC # \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC # \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE "One Day Class \$10.00/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter One Membership Dues 9/1/2015 to 8/31/2016 \$10.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: David Gorrell 1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, Md. 21108

By filling out this form the payee/s agree to adhere to all Chapter One NAWCC, Inc., Mart Room Rules and By Laws.

NO REFUNDS AFTER 12 NOON THE SATURDAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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Meeting Schedule

Saturday October 3 "One Day Class" – "

Sunday October 5

7:15 A.M. Registration Opens –

7:30 to 8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room set up Table Holders and Early Birds Only

8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room opens to all other registered participants

10:30 – 11:30 -- Workshop

12:00 -- Noon Mart Room Closes. No Security, the Mart Room must be cleared 12:15 to 1:45 – Luncheon Speaker,







