



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:

**March 30, 2014**

At the

**Holiday Inn**

Philadelphia North/Fort Washington

432 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Washington, Pa. 19034

**The Speakers for the March 30th, 2013 Meeting will be:**

The Workshop Presenter will be his topic will be:

“ ”

The Luncheon Speaker will be his topic will be:

“ ”

**The Chapter One Meeting dates for 2014.**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 The KEYSTONE WATCH AND  
CLOCK FAIR at Merritts Antiques.

1860 Weavertown Rd. Douglassville, Pa. 19518

**The December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting: A Busy Mart Room**

## Council Members

2012 - 2014

### President

Michael Allen

30 W. Graves Lane

Philadelphia, Pa. 19118

215 242 5923

Fathertime724@aol.com

### Vice President

Lee Davis

4150 Old Orchard Rd.

York, Pa. 17402

717 752 7267

Davisleeh66@aol.com

### Secretary/ Treasurer

David Gorrell

1179 Dicus Mill Rd.

Millersville, Md. 21108

410 987 5915

digclocks@aol.com

### Past president

Domenic Riccitelli

610 574 5447

domenic.riccitelli@gmail.com

**Chapter Council  
Directors**

**2010 – 2014**

Donald Buck

301 990 2461

[Donald.buck1@verizon.net](mailto:Donald.buck1@verizon.net)

Ronald Markowitz

610 828 0740

[ronaldsmarkowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:ronaldsmarkowitz@yahoo.com)

George Morrison

610 384 0388

[watchwldr@verizon.net](mailto:watchwldr@verizon.net)

Colleen Houtz

610 921 9572

[choutz@comcast.net](mailto:choutz@comcast.net)

David Houtz

610 921 9572

[choutz@comcast.net](mailto:choutz@comcast.net)

**2012 – 2016**

Kenneth Garrett

610 565 5029

[keng@garrettliners.com](mailto:keng@garrettliners.com)

Michael Plantier

302 222 9725

[mplantier@comcast.net](mailto:mplantier@comcast.net)

Allen Richardson

610 770 9854

[arichard@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:arichard@cedarcrest.edu)

The December 8<sup>th</sup> ,2013 Best In Show Contest

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to report that we now have 322 dues paying members. Remember, we are always ready and willing to sign on new members, so if you know of anyone who shares our interests in Horology bring them along to the Meeting. If you have paid your dues for the 2013-2014 year and have not yet received your new Green highlighted membership card contact Sect. David Gorrell, djgclocks@aol.com or 410 987 5915

The menu for the March 30th Meeting will be:

, Rolls, Butter and Assorted Cakes

Coffee, Hot Tea, Decaf, Iced Tea

Luncheon Reservations

When you indicate on your Registration Form that you will stay for Lunch you are in fact reserving a Luncheon spot. This means that we have ordered a Luncheon for you. If you order a Lunch but do not show up and we cannot sell that meal you will be charged for the Lunch you ordered. Each Member will receive a voucher with their registration Badge.. That Voucher will be collected at the Luncheon Room door. There will only be 80 vouchers made. Those without a voucher will not be allowed to enter the Luncheon room. Those who wish to hear the Luncheon Speaker but do not or cannot have Lunch will be allowed to enter after the serving line has been closed down.

One Day Cuckoo Clock Repair Class

The One Day Class for the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting will be devoted to **The last hour of the class will be “Open Bench” where any participant who has a problem with any type of watch or clock may bring it to the class and receive suggestions or the assistance they need to solve that problem. It would help if the participant brings the particular watch or clock to the Open Bench session and would notify the Instructor Dave Gorrell beforehand. The Class fee is still only \$10.00.**

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ONE NAWCC, INC. REGISTRATION FORM**

For the Meeting **March 30, 2013**

**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: (CHAPTER ONE MEMBERS ONLY) \$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 # \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC# \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE" One Day Class" on Sat. March 29th @ \$10.00/person      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter One Membership Dues 8/31/2013 to 9/1/2014 \$10.00 per year      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Or you may register ON LINE at: [djgclocks@aol.com](mailto:djgclocks@aol.com)

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, **March 22, 2013**

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch # \_\_\_\_\_

March 30, 2013. Meeting Schedule:

**Saturday March 29th** "One Day Class" -- Holiday Inn 10:30A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

Cuckoo clock repair, movements, cases, bellows, music boxes etc.

**Sunday March 30th**

7:15 A.M. Registration Opens – In the Lobby of the Holiday Inn

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 in the Luncheon area. Presenter

12:00 -- Noon Mart Room Closes. No Security, the Mart Room must be cleared 12:15 to 1:45 – Luncheon -- Speaker. Michael (Skip) Marrone, "Marine Chronometers, Part III."

Publicity

Phone and Email Registration:

Remember that you can register for Meetings online and by phone. We intend to continue this service. However, there is beginning to be a number of members who make their reservations for Meetings, tables and lunches online and by phone, agreeing to pay at the door, and never showing up or paying for those obligations. The Chapter's policy in these cases is, and will remain, that once a member makes a reservation for a table, a lunch or advanced registration and fails to pay for those reservations will then forfeit their ability to preregister by phone or by email in the future. Keep in mind that we have to submit the final table and lunch numbers to the Holiday Inn by 10:A.M. the Saturday one week prior to the meeting date.

Advertising in the Chapter One Newsletter

It has been suggested by some of our members that one way of defraying the cost of mailing our Newsletter was to allow those interested in advertising their services or products to purchase ad space in the Newsletter itself. If you are interested in purchasing a space or are in need of some other announcement space feel free to contact the Secretary, David Gorrell, and it will be provided. In fact the first three advertisements will be FREE.

"One or Two Item" sales Table

For those members who wish to bring one or two items to sell at the Mart can now place them on the "One or Two Item" table. The table will be located in the Lobby next to the Registration Desk and will be secured. The fee for this service will be \$2.00 per item.

President's Message

*Advertising*

*Merritt's*

**For all of your Watch and Clock Repair Supplies**

P.O. Box 877 Douglassville, Pa. 19518-0277

Antique Clock Information (610) 689-9541 Ext262

Product Information (610) 689-9541 Ext. 263

Parts Dept. FAX (610) 689- 0567 Open 24/7 .Toll Free Order FAX 1 – 866  
864 7789 .Open 24/7

**Free delivery to all Chapter One Meetings**

Ronald Hoppes

610 495 7937

Rhoppes588@gmail.com

Charlie Buttz

570 595 2424

shelters@ptd.net

Committee

Chairpersons

Mart:

Donald Buck

Education:

Charlie Buttz

Membership:

David Gorrell

Silent Auction:

George Morrison

Charlie Buttz

Nominating:

Domenic Riccitelli

Programs:

Lee Davis

Security:

Donald Buck (Acting)

Publicity:

David Gorrell

## Up Coming Events in other Chapters:

- **Addresses, times and other data can be found on their sites on the NAWCC Member central website.**

## **Tips from the Workbench:**

Harry Gafezna: Many of my customers ask me, "How do I set the Moon dial on my grandfather clock, and what is its purpose?"

Answer: The Moon dials on modern as well as antique clocks operate pretty much the same. These dials consist of a toothed disk between 6 to 8 inches in diameter with the full face of the moon painted on it, a semicircular dial numbered from 1 to 29 ½ in Arabic numerals, and some sort of engaging device connecting the motion of the hour tube to the moon dial disk. As the hour wheel turns it engages the moon dial by a cam or a pin that moves the disk one click every twelve or twenty four hours. There is also a spring device that rubs against the teeth on the rim of the moon dial disk that prevents the dial from moving more than one tooth at a time. It is this spring device that produces the click you hear when moving the moon dial. Most moon dials have two full moon faces painted on them because the disk itself rotates only 180 degrees every 29 1/2 days, therefore it takes two moon cycles to complete one revolution of the dial. The numbers 1 thru 29 ½ on the arched dial above the moon dial indicate the days in the length of a lunar month or cycle, that is the days it takes from one new moon to the next new moon. The new moon is usually blank on a moon dial since the moon, in reality, is between the sun and the earth and therefore can't be seen due to the glare from the sun. Hence the blank or "no moon" indication on the dial. The areas on the disk between the moon faces are usually decorated with bucolic scenes or seascapes. The full moon, as we know, always occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the lunar month. This is important because all moon dial settings start from this point. In order to set the moon dial one needs to obtain the date of the last full moon. This can be done by examining any calendar or almanac showing the phases of the moon. Then with your finger rotate the dial so that the full face of the moon is directly under the 15 on the semicircular dial. Then counting the days since the last full moon, move the dial one click at a time to the right for each day since the last full moon. Your moon dial is set. If this is inconvenient you can go to WWW. MoonConnection.com where you will find a calendar with the current month and pictures of the phases of the moon for every day of that month. All you need to do then is to make your moon dial match the picture of the moon on the day you are setting it. It couldn't be easier. If while setting your moon dial you find that you can't move the disk don't, force it. It may be engaged and about to click on its own, if this occurs you will have to wait for about three to six hours to do the correcting. This is caused by the fact that it takes about that long for the engaging pin to enter the teeth of the dial and begins to move it until it clicks and the pin moves out of the dials toothed areas allowing the disk to again spin freely...

The purpose of the moon dial in modern times is purely for decoration. However, in the past they did provide some useful information for example; if a person was traveling in a strange and dangerous area, traveling by the light of the full moon could be helpful. Others seem to think that trees planted during the full moon seemed to bear fruit faster and that peas and potatoes should be planted during the rising portion of the moons cycle. Still others seemed to think that the number of snows an area could experience could be predicted by counting the days between the first snows in the fall and the next full moon. That number would correspond to the number of snows one could expect during the coming winter. I have been unable to locate any scientific or anecdotal information corroborating these assertions during my research however. But I am not one to readily dismiss them merely because I don't understand them or was unable to find facts to substantiate them. Those people, much closer to nature than many of us today, must have had some pretty good reasons for having those beliefs. Just because we don't understand them does not make them any less valid. Or perhaps they really were just pulling our leg



Fig 1 Moon dial disk



Fig. 2 Moon dial seascape at new moon



Fig. 3 Moon dial with bucolic scene



Fig 4 Full moon

Images from [www.pendulumofmayfair.co.uk](http://www.pendulumofmayfair.co.uk)

## Perhaps the most controversial clock ever produced in America.

Clocks can evoke many emotional responses in humans. Many of these emotional responses are derived from their artistic beauty, their historic significance, their functionality, or even their mechanical beauty. But there is probably only one clock that was and still is valued for the contentiousness that it created, that clock is the “Shmoo Clock”. Those of us “of a certain age” can fondly remember the introduction of the Shmoo into American life back on August 31, 1948. Shmoos were created by the cartoonist Al Capp who many people thought was not really wrapped to tight. His satirical comments about American life and customs were often the topics of discussion around many dinner tables, office water coolers and bars of the day. Al Capp's cartoon “Lil Abner”, in which Shmoos were introduced, was set in the American South in an area called “Dogpatch”, the denizens of which were fondly, and just as often not so fondly, referred to as “Hillbillies”. The Shmoos themselves were small, rotund creatures shaped not unlike bowling pins: they had no arms, noses or ears, sported a small stubby mustache and loved doing things for humans. In fact they would gladly sacrifice themselves to meet whatever needs the humans they encountered seemed to desire. They could be eaten, they tasted like oysters beefsteak, pork roast, fried chicken or even catfish. They freely gave milk, butter and eggs. They were easy to catch all one needed was a paper bag, flashlight and a stick. The flashlight stunned them, the stick whacked them and the paper bag was used to carry them home for eating. They reproduced asexually and were more prolific than rabbits. But it was in their insatiable desire to provide humans with any and all things they desired that created the controversy referred to earlier. Many on the political left thought that the Shmoos satirically represented them as they pushed for governmentally sponsored social programs which were proliferating in Post-World War II America. The “Daily Worker” a Communists paper complained that Shmoos were an attack on Karl Marx and Socialism. The political right felt that Al Capp's Shmoos were an attack on capitalism and the American way of life. The U.S. military called them a major threat to national security. Which one was correct, was hard to tell back in the day, and looking back on it myself, I believe that they were all correct. Many of us thought that Shmoos were, in fact, a commentary on the current state of American society. It was ,as many have stated, an allegory about the greed and corruption that tends to tarnish all that is good and innocent in the world. Capp on the other hand said that the controversial Shmoos were nothing more than a political morality tale about human nature in general. The controversy continued until the Shmoos left the comic strip scene just before Christmas in 1948. By that time,however, hundreds of Shmoo Societies had sprung up on college campuses all across America. Almost immediately after their introduction in the comic strips seventy five companies began to manufacture Shmoo related items. In the first year, 1948, Shmoos generated \$25,000,000 in sales which in todays, inflation adjusted 2013 dollars, amounts to \$215,000,000. What, might you ask does this have to do with clocks? Well one of those manufacturing companies was the Lux Clock Company, of Waterbury Conn. A clock company that produced literally hundreds of small novelty clocks. It began to produce Shmoos with pendulette clock movements in their roly polly bellies. The bodies were made out of plastic 7 ¼ inches high, 3 ¼ inches wide and came in four colors, white, pink, yellow and blue. They all had a swinging pendulum with a blue bob and were powered by a 30 hour wind up movement. They sold for \$2.98 in 1948, today, if you can find one, they sell for hundreds of dollars. In fact one in questionable condition just sold for \$115 on Ebay. The most I have seen them sell for is one that was still in its original box and it brought \$326.37 at auction , before the buyer's premium. Perhaps “those of us of a certain age” are often guilty of waxing nostalgically about “the good old days” but looking out over contemporary America today I feel that maybe we could use another infestation of those loveable, little, rotund, self sacrificing , creations of Al Capp's fertile mind, the ever controversial and now very pricey, Shmoo.

A Shmoo in white and an original edition of a Newspaper Comic Strip currently for sale on Ebay for around \$40.00

