



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

# Philadelphia Chapter One

*Chartered November 1, 1943*

## May 7, 2017

At the **Rodeway Inn**: 969 Bethlehem Pike,  
Montgomeryville, Pa. 18936 **215-699-5113**



### The Speakers for the May 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

**The Luncheon Speaker: George Thomas.** His topic will be “**Restorations of Very Old Time Pieces, 200 to 500 Years.**” Some of these pieces were “Beyond hope.” “Restoration of the impossible.” “Beyond repair,” or “The resurrection of a time piece.”

**The Workshop Presenter will be Al Dodson. His topic will be:” Clock and Watch Escapements”**

**Silent Auction:** Bring in your unneeded items convert them into cash, easily and cheaply on our **Silent Auction Table**, or on our **One or Two Item Sales Table**.

### One Day Class for May 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The One Day Class will be on “Repairing the American Kitchen Clock Movement”. The class will involve: Examining the Movement, disassembly and cleaning the Movement, Mainspring removal and cleaning, and reassembly. Participants should bring the following tools: gloves, safety glasses, a screw driver (Flat Blade), a small vise, a bench light, a pair of small pliers and any other tools they think necessary. For participants who don’t have those items, they will be provided by the instructor.

**Table Holders:** As we saw at the last meeting, it was a bit of a squeeze. Space is limited; therefore, it is advisable to order your tables as soon as possible. The Rodeway staff is going to see if they can provide more room for us in the future, however, that may take some time. Unfortunately, Walk Ins might not be accommodated when trying to get tables at the last minute. If table holders have not filled their tables by 9:30 or 10:00 o’clock their tables might be resold to

someone else. Late comers and Walk Ins may find themselves relegated to the Lobby where only 6 foot tables will be provided.

***If you haven't paid your dues for this year you will no longer receive the Newsletter nor will you be able to advance register for Meetings or be able to reserve Mart tables.***

### **Interesting Facts about Time and Clocks**

1. "o'clock" is a contraction of "stroke of the clock" and comes from 15th century references to medieval mechanical clocks. – . Clockwise and counterclockwise were originally sun wise and widdershins before clocks were common
2. The clock's hands moving 'clockwise' were intended to imitate the way the shadow on a sundial in the Northern hemisphere moves during the day. In USA, time zones as we know them were first established by the railroad industry during 1883. Before that, every town kept its own time based on the sunrise and using a central clock. This made scheduling trains nearly impossible, necessitating a standardized time. –
3. The clock's hands moving 'clockwise' was intended to imitate the way the shadow on a sundial in the Northern hemisphere moves during the day.

### **A Truly Unique Wall Clock**

On display at the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York City is a wall clock that will fascinate you. It isn't an ordinary wall clock; it shows the time by the rotation of the hands of 288 small clocks. It is hypnotizing the way the hands of the various clocks rotate and create captivating designs then transform those designs into the correct time. To witness this phenomenon, go to the Cooper-Hewitt Museum web site and you can see it in action.

The address is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46hZw\\_waTPU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46hZw_waTPU)





**This is a photo of the clock itself. However, this doesn't begin to do it justice when you see it in action. Do yourself a favor and check it out.**

## The Most Famous Clock in The World Goes in For Repairs:

The distinctive bongs of **Big Ben** could be altered after refurbishment, experts have said. Britain's best-loved bell will soon fall silent for several months as part of a three year £29 million revamp, to repair the Elizabeth Tower and clock. Officials have warned that the tower clock is in such a 'chronic state' that it may fail if work is not carried out urgently. But experts at the University of Leicester, who have recently carried out laser vibration mapping to find out how the 13.5 tonne bell produces its characteristic sound, say that renovation work could alter the frequency of soundwaves, and length of the bong. Removing accumulated soot or making new repairs to the crack in the bell may change its tone, while plans to renovate the structure of the tower, which include refitting the frame which holds the bell, could impact how long the bong travels for.

**Big Ben** has also never been tuned, so restorers in future may take the opportunity to make the bell sound closer to what was originally intended, although there are no plans to tune the bell at present. When it was originally fitted by **Whitechapel Bell Foundry** the clapper was too large, causing a crack to appear and leading to its peculiar dissonant sound. Consequently, it has not rung true since 1859.

Amy Stubbs, General Manager of the **Advanced Structural Dynamics Evaluation Centre at Leicester University** said:

“The sound of **Big Ben** is entirely unique and made up a number of different frequencies, all of which make it quite easy to identify when you hear it on the news, or the radio. We all know the sound intimately. If you make any changes to a bell then that will alter its sound, for example the crack is having an effect on the way it vibrates, which is why it has a dissonant sound, unlike



say that of St Paul's Cathedral. It wasn't tuned, even when it was new, so if they do any tuning or take any metal off then the sound could change. If it's very dirty they may remove the soot. And if they are rebuilding the belfry then that could change the constraint that the bell moves in and so that could potentially have an impact. If you change the pressure of hitting the bell then it will vibrate in a different way,

and perhaps change how long it rings for. It's likely to be very small difference in frequencies, maybe just to the human ear."

A spokeswoman for the House of Common said: "The crack in the bell is what gives **Big Ben** its distinctive sound, and therefore we do not intend to change it." The bell already has an unexpectedly high sound for such a large casting, which experts believe was the result of an amateur designing its shape.

It will be the third time that the chime has not rung out over London for 150 years, having previously stopped for nine months of repairs in 1976 and six weeks in 2007. Restorers want to repair the clock and fix cracks in its water-damaged masonry, cast-iron roof and belfry and the frame which holds the bells. The refit could see the clock faces stripped of the black and gold paint that was applied in the 1980s to return them to their Victorian appearance, of green and gold paint. To find out the frequencies which produce **Big Ben's** sound, the Leicester team used a measurement technique called, 'laser Doppler vibrometry,' which involved creating a 3D computer model of the bell and then using lasers to map the vibrations in the metal of the bell as it chimed. They measured four of **Big Ben's** chimes, taking place at 9AM, 10AM, 11AM and 12 noon.

Martin Cockrill, a Technical Specialist from the Department of Engineering at the **University of Leicester**, who leads **ASDEC's** measurement team said:

"You cannot just glue sensors to a national treasure such as **Big Ben**. Our ability to do the whole thing quickly without touching the bell was key to the whole project. Aside from the technical aspects one of the most challenging parts of the job was carrying all of our equipment up the 334 steps of the spiral staircase to the belfry. Then to get everything set up before the first chime, we were literally working against the clock."

A spokeswoman for the House of Common also said:

"The bells in the Elizabeth Tower have been cleaned on previous occasions, most recently in 2009, and this has not resulted in any perceptible change in the sound. Furthermore, the crack in Big Ben is what gives the bell its distinctive sound, and therefore we do not intend to change it, whether by repairing the crack or by 'tuning' the bell."

The findings of the mapping project will be revealed during a **BBC** documentary entitled '**Sound Waves: The Symphony of Physics**', which will be broadcast at 9:00PM on Thursday 2 March on **BBC4** and is hosted by Dr Helen Czerski

## Interesting Facts About Watches

Though there are so-called "atomic watches" that rely on radio signals produced by the US government to stay accurate, the Cesium of 133 leverages a self-contained



source of Cesium that generates its own time signal completely independent of any other source. It's billed as the most accurate watch on the planet and it lives up to all expectations.

Tissot introduced the first mass-produced pocket watch as well as the first pocket watch with two time zones in 1853 and the first anti-magnetic watch in 1929–30. The first known wristwatch with a perpetual calendar was manufactured using a pendant watch movement by Patek Philippe (about 1925). About 1930 Emile Borer made the first self-winding wristwatch whose unidirectional rotor swung in a complete circle: the Rolex Perpetual.

### The Best in Show Contest: Feb. 27th



**There were two very interesting pocket watches entered in this meetings contest. One submitted by Dave Strudler and the other by Dale Sutton.**

**It was a tough decision by the membership but Dale Sutton's entry won in the end.**



**In the clock category,** there was only one entry, an unusual German Mantel clock with an unusual calendar movement. The clock had a very French look about it but after a close examination of the movement it was determined that it was probably German and manufactured around 1890.



To the left is the clock, unfortunately it had no markings indicating who was the maker.

To the right is the movement and calendar mechanism.

Looking closely, you can see that there seems to be no connection between the clock movement and the calendar mechanism. But there is a string that runs behind the board that serves as the movement mounting and as the clock runs it lifts the tripping lever on the calendar.





In the “other” category there was also only one entry; a device for attaching “E” clips to slotted posts in Cuckoo Clocks, Hermele, Sligh, and other newer clocks. This device was constructed using an old wrench and to it was soldered a brass spring. The brass spring holds the “E” clip in place while it is being pressed into place.



The members enjoying the workshop on “**Ball Bearing Bushings**”. This technique is both new and effective, but it is also very controversial. The method used for installing these types of bushings was demonstrated, and explained. The primary difference between these types of bushings and the traditional solid bushings is that the ball bearings are glued in place with “Loctite” rather than being driven into place.



## Up Coming events for Chapter One

1. The **Summer Picnic** will be held on **July 15<sup>th</sup>** at **Merritt’s Antiques** from 9:00Am till 3:00PM a Newsletter will be sent out with all the particulars.
2. **Chapter One** will again be the Host Chapter for the **2017 Mid-Eastern Regional**. It will be held at the **York Expo Center** on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. **You** will find a registration form in the May-June issue of the Mart. However, you can sign up at this Meeting as well. Registration forms and a layout of the **York Expo Center** will be available so you can pick out the table location you want.
3. The dates for the fall Meetings have not yet been determined. As soon as they are you will be notified.

**Registration for the Meeting: May 7, 2017**

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 ea. #\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

Names for the Badges (Please Print Clearly)

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

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

**SIGN ME UP FOR THE "One Day Class"** \$15.00/person #\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter One Membership Dues:** 9/1/2016 to 8/31/2017 \$10.00/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 one week PRIOR TO THE MEETING, April 29, 2017**

## **Meeting Schedule:**

Saturday May 6th “One Day Class –  
” Repairing American Kitchen Clocks”

Class Starts at 10:30 ends at 4:00PM

Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting:

7:30 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 AM - **Best in Show Contest**

11:15 - Workshop” **Al Dodson – Clock and Watch Escapements”**

12:00 - Noon Mart Room Closes. No Security, the Mart Room must be cleared

1:45 - Luncheon Speaker: George Thomas

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