

Bytown Times

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Sunday, November 22, 2009
 Workshop begins at 10:30 AM
 Meeting begins at 1:11 PM

WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park
 Community Centre
 25 Esquimault Ave., Ottawa

MEETING AGENDA:

- (To be determined)
- Show and Tell

DATING THE AMERICAN CLOCK

At the September 2009 meeting, Ben Roberts spoke about his quest to date a clock, which involved more historical than horological research.

The general style and shape of the clock case, together with its other features such as the dial minute and hour numbering, the style of the hands, the absence of a false plate, etc., all suggest an American tall case clock from the latter half of the 1700's. However, more precise indicators of its dating are found in the dial paintings.

The painting in the dial arch depicts an engagement between two ships, one American and one English, indicating some stage in the American Revolu-



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NOVEMBER 2009 WORKSHOP: **MAKING A STAKING TOOL FOR A GATHERING PALLET**

The purpose of the tool is to allow one to return the gathering pallet to its shaft without bending the shaft and without breaking the pin.

A lathe is the preferred tool for working on the NAWCC model staking tool. I will show participants how to make a slight taper by using the lathe and hand tools.

The workshop will begin at 10:30 AM, and will run for two hours.

Required tools/supplies that participants need to bring:

- A 1/2 inch file with a safe edge;
- small needle files.
- Drill bits- # 52; 60;
- small centering drill.
- A jeweler's saw or small hacksaw.
- A portable vise
- A scribe
- One 3/8" diameter x 1 1/2" long brass rod.
- One 1/8" diameter x 4" long brass rod (NAWCC model from course F201)
- Fine emery paper.

DATING THE AMERICAN CLOCK, CONTINUED...

tionary War. In addition, depicted in the corners of the dial, are (clockwise, from top left) the Prince Regent of Eng-

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UPDATE ON TRAINING ACTIVITIES

NAWCC Field Suitcase Course F202 Lathe II Skills for Clock Repair

Building on what was learned in the F200 and F201 Suitcase Courses, students will expand their skills needed to make selected clock parts and tools using a cross-slide.

Prerequisites: F200 and F201 Field Suitcase Courses

When: May 21 through 24, 2010, inclusive

Where: Ottawa (exact location to be announced)

There is room for two more participants. For more information, please contact Grant Perry.

2009 Basic Clock Repair Course: Class Photo



To the left is the class photo for the 2009 Basic Clock Repair course. The participants were:

Back row from left to right: Daniel Marks; Ray Springer; Don Purchase; Gerald Smith; Daniel Burgoyne; Scott Whiteside; Peter Dickson. (Irene Dickson is hiding behind Don Purchase.)

Front row from left to right: Jim Anderson; Jean-Paul Tourigny; Dan Hudon; Kevin West; Yvon Mayo;

There were five first-time participants: Daniel Marks, Don Purchase, Daniel Burgoyne, Jim Anderson, Yvon Mayo. Certificates were handed out to these five at the last class, on October 24, 2009.

Training info provided by Dan Hudon and Grant Perry.

HOROLOGY AND THE SECRET SOCIETY

April is synonymous with the end of winter, the blooming of fools, and the arrival of a big bunny bearing chocolate eggs... but for an elite selection of students at Yale university, it also means the arrival of “Tap Day” — the day that 15 juniors are selected to join the throngs of the secret society Skull and Bones.

Myth surrounding Skull and Bones claims this vastly influential group (which counts among its members family names such as Taft, Cheney, and Bush — including both recent Presidents) partakes in many peculiar activities including stealing great artifacts (such as Geronimo’s bones) and performing satanic rituals. In addition, members reputedly refer to themselves as Knights (older members as Patriarchs), and to all others as Barbarians.

The group is represented by the well-recognized skull and crossbones set over the number 322, which is commonly thought to refer to “founded in ‘32 (1832), 2nd corps” — the corps being a fraternity at an unknown German university.

Another symbol also commonly appears in relation to this secret society: the grandfather clock.

New members are said to receive a gift of \$15,000 for graduation, along with a grandfather clock (though some sources say the clock is actually given as a wedding gift).

A grandfather clock is also centrally featured in the society’s annual photo of the new members. Each year, the 15 new members are photographed lined up in 2 rows, a small table in front laid with a skull and bones, and a grandfather clock set to exactly 8PM standing in the centre of the back row. Extremist religious groups claim the time, 8PM, is a subtle satanic reference (8 PM is precisely $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 12-hour cycle; $2 \div 3 = .666$). However, it is likely that it simply references the time at which the bell is rung to summon the members to the society’s sessions every Thursday and Sunday evening.

It is interesting to note that the society also makes a point of running on “Skull and Bones time”. The clocks in the “tomb” (the society’s house on the Yale campus) are all set 5 minutes ahead. Apparently this is to separate the members from the “Barbarian” world, and to help fortify the members’ bonds.

Some believe the clock represents the timelessness of the society, while others believe it represents that all are equal in death — a reminder to live life to its fullest. Either way, the truth will be kept secret, if the Bonesmen can help it...

Article by: Erin Fox

Note: some of the information contained herein is based on generally accepted assumptions and rumours, as very little is actually known about the society Skull and Bones.

DATING THE AMERICAN CLOCK, CONTINUED...

land, the Prince of Sweden, the Emperor of Russian, and the King of Prussia, all of whom are connected with the “Declaration of Armed Neutrality” issued by Catherine the Great of Russia in 1780. The Declaration enabled nations to trade without interference by the British Royal Navy, which had a wartime policy of searching neutral ships for contraband. The United States, somewhat erroneously, viewed the Declaration as a mark of Russian friendship and sympathy. The mediation of Catherine the Great was partly responsible for ending the war.

Conclusion: the clock is an American tall case clock dating from soon after 1780. I would date it as circa 1783.

Info and photos provided by Ben Roberts.

REMINDER!
The Annual Chapter III Auction will be held at the January 2010 meeting.
Bring your unwanted horological items, and some cash to buy some new treasures!

2010 MEETING DATES

January 24, 2010	September 26, 2010
March 28, 2010	November 28, 2010
May 16, 2010	

PICTURES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2009 MEETING



CHAPTER III TOUR OF THE CLOCK COLLECTION AT THE CANADA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

On October 18th, 2009, our chapter was invited to tour the clock collection at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

The tour, as intended, enabled our Chapter members to view clocks in the warehouse. Randall Brooks, our guide, met us at the main entrance, guided us to the warehouse, gave a short explanation of what could be seen and how the museum acquires artifacts. Péquegnat clocks had already been placed on tables for easier viewing. About 35 to 40 people showed up for the tour. Some European clocks were seen and one very large floor clock was on display. Randall informed the group that all museum artifacts can be viewed online at the artefactscanada website:

<http://artefactscanada.chin.gc.ca:8015/Webtop/CHINApps/artefacts/ws/human/user/www/SearchForm?currLang=English>

It was also interesting to see the other artifacts that the museum keeps, especially the music box collection, old cameras, radios, bicycles (including a Péquegnat) and various kinds of machinery representing technology throughout the ages.

After the warehouse tour, some of the members visited the museum itself. The Lego company had a very good display of its product. Also, the tower clock mechanism is still functioning inside the museum.

It was a pleasant afternoon visit to one of our local museums.

Article provided by Dan Hudon

PICTURES CONTINUED...



LIST OF LOCAL SUPPLY SHOPS

- Metal Supermarkets: 2900 Old Sheffield Rd., Unit 1, Ottawa, 613-747-7511, www.metalsupermarkets.com
[All metal, sheets, rod plates, in small amounts]
- Dowd Supply Co.: 36 Rosemount Ave., Ottawa, 613-236-9493, www.dowdsupply.com
[Jeweler's Tools, and Equipment (Grobet USA)]
- Lee Valley Tools: 900 Morrison Drive, Ottawa, 613-596-9202, www.leevalley.com
[Tools and round Brass Stock]
- Fastenal: 6 Bexley Place, Unit 102, Ottawa, 613-288-1470, www.fastenal.com
[Some Metal]
- Busy Bee Tools: 2251 Gladwin Cres., Ottawa, 613-526-4696, www.busybeetools.com
- Legere Industrial Supplies Ltd.: 1120 Morrison Drive, Ottawa, 613-829-8010, www.legereindustrial.com
[Machine mechanical supplies]
- Ottawa Fastener Supply Ltd.: 175 Robertson Road, Ottawa (Bells Corners), 613-828-4117, www.ottawafastenersupply.com
[All metric and standard fasteners, Tools]
- Dynamic Hobbies: 21 Concourse Gate, Unit 6, Ottawa, 613-225-9634, www.dynamichobbies.com
[small brass rods and small diameter piano wire]

Club Information

This club acts as a meeting place for antique clock and watch enthusiasts. Members are interested in a wide array of topics: some collect, some do research, some do repairs.

Formal club meetings take place five times each year, on the fourth Sunday of every second month, with a break in the summer. Meetings are held in January, March, May, September, and November. Doors open at 1:00 PM.

Club members also enjoy two annual social events: a Wine and Cheese party each November, and a Picnic BBQ each July.

Courses on clock and watch repair are held throughout the year.

The Bytown Times is published five times each year.

Annual Dues for club membership is \$16. Club members should also have memberships to the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC). NAWCC Dues are U.S. \$65.

Club Officers & Contacts

President & Librarian: Wally Clemens
Box 311, 4970 Opeongo Road, RR#3
Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0
(613) 832-3085

Vice President: TBD

Auditor: Georges Royer

Membership Chair: Veronica West

Secretary &

Bytown Times Writer & Editor: Erin Fox

Treasurer &

Show and Display Coordinator: Grant Perry

Immediate Past President: Maynard Dokken

Program & Social Director: Tim Bryans

Education & Workshop Chairman: Dan Hudon



Secretary's Corner

I would like to thank Wally Clemens, Ben Roberts, Charles Beddoe, Dan Hudon and Grant Perry for their contributions to this issue.

As usual, I would like to welcome members to submit their own articles for the newsletter. Topics can be anything: a review of your collection with pictures, a summary of some research you've gathered, 'how-to' or instructional information, museums and other horological sites you've visited, etc. Articles and pictures can be emailed to me at:

erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

Please don't forget to visit our website as well:

www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca

Notes from the President's Desk

During my annual trip to New Jersey I was able to reunite with an old friend, Hunter Kissam. Hunter owns and operates Grafton Clock Repair in North Grafton Massachusetts. I met Hunter back in the early nineties through family friends and soon discovered that we both have a love of mechanical clock movements. After the day's activities we enjoyed talking shop into the evening. You can read up on Hunter and his shop at www.graftonclockrepair.com

A special congratulation to member, Doug Minty, who received the Order of Australia. Good on you Doug.

The New NAWCC Chapter Charter has been signed by Erin and myself and has been sent off to National.

We need your help to save on our mailing costs for The Bytown Times. Please provide us with your e-mail address so that we can provide you with a soft copy and use the savings to purchase a projector. The projector will be used for training and during meetings to display members' presentations.

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Soirée and at our upcoming meeting. Don't forget to bring in your show and tell items.