



Keep the NAWCC ticking and continuing to educate and inspire. Click to join today.



NEWSLETTER

January 2025

As we turn the calendar to 2025, we can look back and appreciate the continual push for advancement at the NAWCC. The last three years have seen ongoing improvement from the ground upwards. Much of these changes have been behind the scenes and, though essential, are not particularly exciting to talk about. It is like stripping and rebuilding the engine of an old car: it may not look or feel any different, but it is working efficiently and enjoying a new allotment of happy motoring ahead.

This year will bring many tangible changes to the NAWCC. As you will see in this newsletter, some stellar items are being added to the collection, enhancing our already world-class [Museum](#). We are tremendously grateful to all those individuals and companies that have contributed expertise, time, objects, and cash to make these changes possible.

As I write, the [School of Horology](#) is getting a major makeover that will transform half of the building into a wonderful area that will allow us to expand and diversify the workshops on offer and create a maker space. These new teaching/workspaces will be available to students over the coming months and will be showcased at our open house event on June 19.

It is a great time to be a part of the NAWCC, and we look forward to continuing to facilitate collecting, advocate for horology, and provide education. If you are not a member already, please consider [joining us](#) to help with this important mission.

As ever, I hope that you will enjoy this newsletter and get back to us with any feedback or suggestions that you may have.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director

Keynote Lecturer



The NAWCC is very pleased to welcome Roger W. Smith, OBE, as the 2025 Keynote Lecturer at the National Convention in York, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Smith is a renowned British independent watchmaker who was mentored by George Daniels. He will speak at the banquet on Saturday, June 21 at the Wyndham Garden, host hotel for the NAWCC convention.

June 19-22

Workshops, Lectures,
Live Auction, Crafts
Competition,
Buy/Sell/Trade Mart

Convention
Registration and event
details are available at
natcon.nawcc.org.



New to the Museum in 2024

The Museum received many wonderful artifacts for its collection in 2024. We are deeply grateful to those who generously donated these stellar examples of the horological craft. Be sure to include the [Museum](#) in your 2025 travel plans to see all of the additions.

Watch for details about the new Museum items in future newsletters!





This Month in Horological History *with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist*

January 9, 1855

On this day, Aaron Dodd Crane received US patent no. 12196 for a "torsion-pendulum for timepieces." This patent was an improvement on a previous torsion pendulum patent Crane received in 1841, in which there was only one weight or ball.

The 1855 patent claimed that by having two or more weights or balls, the torsion pendulum would be freely governed by the centrifugal force created by the motion. The use of multiple balls or weights that can swing outward allows for the creation of a "compensating pendulum of the greatest accuracy and simplicity," as the patent states.



Eight-day torsion pendulum shelf clock, Year Clock Co., ca. 1855, Museum catalog no. 75.26.1.

A Grand Time at the School of Horology

Occasionally, participants in a School workshop already know each other, but it's not often that they're related. Such was the case when two grandfather/grandson duos attended the Craft-A-Clock Workshop on December 14. Bill Forney, a volunteer at the School and Museum, brought his 14-year-old grandson, Anthony, to the workshop. Anthony is in eighth grade and enjoys math, and said he wanted to understand how clocks work. NAWCC member David Shrom attended the workshop with his 11-year-old grandson, Henry Eschbach. Henry is a sixth grader who enjoys science class and thought the workshop sounded fun, since they don't have many clocks without batteries at home. It was the first horological class for both boys, and they may have caught the fever to learn more about clocks. Anthony stated, as so many NAWCC members have, "I could get into that."



Anthony and his grandfather, Bill



Henry and his grandfather, David



Bulletin Buzz

We're excited about so many good things in store for the NAWCC in 2025, and we're kicking it off with a packed January/February issue of the [Watch & Clock Bulletin](#):

- ~"A Goode Watch: Rescuing a Charles Goode Watch Movement" by Ken Rockwell
- ~"The Collecting Story of Jon Hanson" by John Cote
- ~"Museum Spotlight" by Rory McEvoy
- ~"A Most Unusual Clock Watch" by Ed Fasanella
- ~"19th-Century Clock Tablets Featuring Knowsley Hall" by Lee Davis
- ~"A Bond on Board! A Marine Chronometer Story" by Burt Cifrulak
- ~2024 Time Symposium Recap by Cathy

Gorton

- ~2025 NAWCC Election Details
- ~Plus Chapter Highlights, puzzles, and more!

Don't miss any issues of the NAWCC's official journal!
Join or renew and receive six issues of the *Bulletin* each year.

Membership

A Closer Look in the Museum with Ken De Lucca, Education Director

I've been known to travel down some rabbit holes, and now thanks to my friend Tom Holmes, I have explored yet another one. Except for examples in our Museum, I have rarely seen musical clocks up close. I decided to walk through clock galleries in the [Museum](#) to see what I could find, and I timed my journey to when the running clocks were happily striking the noon hour.

A carillon is a set of properly tuned bells sounded by hammers, and it can be made of metal bells or glass bells. The first musical clock I came across in the Museum was a musical wall clock made circa 1770. However, rather than a carillon of metal bells, this one has nine glass bells. The bells are struck with wooden hammers. Capable of playing six different tunes, this German unsigned clock has a wooden dial. The dial is wooden with gold and silver leafing. The movement is held in a wooden frame, and it has a *Kuhnschwantz* or "cow's tail" pendulum that swings in front of the dial.



According to Arthur W. J. G. Ord-Hume in *Restoring Musical Boxes & Musical Clocks*, glass bell clocks like this one were from the Black Forest, and the bells

were rather crude in appearance but had a wonderful tone. A glass bell is tuned by grinding down the rim. The glass color varied from green, blue-white, to transparent but always had air bubbles and non-glass particulates. The bells all had a *pud*, which was a rough stem formed by a lump of glass. It seems the term *prunt* is also a commonly used term for *pud*, at least in today's literature.

I really enjoyed how pointedly the author of *Restoring Musical Boxes & Musical Clocks* emphasizes that there is no such thing as a "nest of bells." He calls the phrase a "pseudo-technical-sounding term, [that] is especially found in poorly-edited auction catalogues. Bells may be 'nested' together, i.e. partially superimposed with their rims overlapping, but refer to a row, rank or assembly of bells—not a nest." Stated as clear as a bell!

Note the pud, or prunt, that each bell hangs from. The wooden hammers hang from wires. Museum catalog no. 75.32.1.



Time to Learn

[Register online](#) for an NAWCC education class:

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

January 25-26, 2025: Introduction to Antique Clocks

February 7-9, 2025: American-Style Time/Strike Movement Workshop

March 14-16, 2025: Rack-and-Snail Striking and an Introduction to the Tall Case Clock

March 22-23, 2025: WS-117 Using the Micro-Lathe for the Beginner

April 4-6, 2025: Introduction to the Anniversary, or 400-Day, Clock

April 28-May 2, 2025: Watchmaker Master Class with Philippe Narbel



Traveling Workshop F101 (Shalimar, FL)

January 23-26, 2025: The American Kitchen Clock Movement

Each month, you will receive more updates and the inside scoop on the latest events, exhibits, classes, and more.

Warmly,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

Do you love watches and clocks as much as we do?

Click to become a member!

NAWCC | 717-684-8261 | www.nawcc.org



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