

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2005 Volume 1

2005 Election

The 2005 Election is for the New NAWCC Board of Directors and the Nominating and Elections Committee. This is the first election to be held in the newly merged NAWCC. On a onetime basis, all twelve director positions are being filled in a fresh start for the new NAWCC board. Seven positions are being filled by election, and the other five by direct appointment following the election.

All ballots must be received by the auditor by 12:00 midnight EST on April 1, 2005. The outside of the ballot must be marked with membership number and State of residence, or Country, if non-U.S. in order to be accepted. Copies of the official are invalid and will not be accepted.

Annual Dues for 2005

We hope you've enjoyed reading the HBACC newsletters this year. To continue your subscription for 2005, please send your annual dues of \$15.00 by end of April 2005 to our Treasurer:

Mike Wilson
15508 E. chaparral Way
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

Pride in Our Chapter

We have had great fortune with the growth of our club in the last year. One of the nicer aspects of growth in the club is when fellow members share stories, photos and articles. We congratulate our club President, Vince Angell, on having his article (originally published here in our newsletter) *Illuminated Alarm Clock* published in this April's color section of the NAWCC Bulletin.

HBACC Pins

We've had very good feedback about the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter pins that were sent to all active members in the beginning of 2005. The design of the pin (by Vince Angell) is shown above. We're hoping to see many members wearing the pins to up and coming Regional and National meetings.



Bill Stoddard and Richard Tjarks

In this issue we are pleased to present an article by Bill Stoddard and Richard Tjarks entitled History of Big Ben and Baby Ben Windup Alarm Clocks. This is destined to be a 'desktop' reference for any Westclox collector. Due to its length, the article will be split over two or three of the next newsletters.

For those of you that are connected to the World Wide Web, please be sure to check out Bill Stoddard's web site (home page shown below). Though a few other manufactures are presented, the main focus of the site is Westclox. Its packed full of features and information on Westclox mechanical and electric clocks.



Officers, Contacts, etc.

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 Chapter Newsletter: Quarterly
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Sell it Through the Newsletter

Every member may submit one ad per newsletter. This includes a *Wanted to Buy* or *Wanted to Sell*. The newsletter comes out at the beginning of March, June, September and December.

Instructions to Authors



All are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the *Alarm Clock Chapter* newsletter. Please include your name, address and phone number with the article. Although certainly

not a complete list, suggestions for topics are:

- Specific alarm clocks or manufacturers
- Unique design - movement or case
- Special methods of cleaning
- Descriptions of interesting repairs
- History of a manufacturer
- Helpful tips on repair

Photos along with the text are always appreciated. Please email to the editor at:

saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

Chapter News and Updates

When you receive the NAWCC Bulletin, please check the *Special Interest Chapter Highlights* for possible updates and news on the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter.

Phyllis and I will try to have a write up, small or large, in every issue.

-- Vince Angell --

Honey, Remember to Turn on the Rooster Booster.

Fellow member Doug Stevenson saw this on Reuters Newswire (Feb 15th, 2005) - something for a little chuckle.

Oddly Enough - Reuters

BERLIN (Reuters) - Before leaving on vacation, a German couple set up a loudspeaker and timer with the sound of a crowing cock to blast their neighbors every morning.

After complaints, police in the northern town of Itzehoe obtained a warrant to enter the house and discovered the gear with the speakers aimed at the neighbors and rigged to a timer.

"The apparatus switched on between 2 and 4 o'clock in the morning and produced a cock crowing at an enormous volume. This would last for 20 minutes with breaks in between," police said.

Police confiscated the gear and charged the vacationers, who are still away, with bodily harm and disturbing the peace. The neighbors had no history of antagonism.

A Great Polishing Product!

It's a product called "Mothers Mag Polish" I bought it at Kragen's Auto Parts. Its also available at Schuks or Checker Auto. Not only is it great for metals but its a super cleaner/polish for bakelite. So if you have a bakelite alarm clock this can do wonders. I've used it on nickel and brass and it does a GREAT job without being abrasive like products I've used in the past..

-- Vince Angell --

Member Feature

The most recent meeting of the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter #178 (HBACC) met on Friday, February 4, 2005, at the Greater Los Angeles Regional in Pasadena, California.

Bob Linkenhofer showing his new acquisition.



Marshall Knolton at HBACC display



In this issue we are pleased to feature a new member, Wolfgang, from Germany. Wolfgang has generously provided photos of some of his collection.

I began collecting clocks so about 35 years ago, especially the wooden made ones in the Black Forest. Often their movements had special (and very different by most standards) mechanisms attached to enable a bell to be rung at a chosen time. In the figure above, the fifth and sixth clocks are such

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In lieu of a regular meeting, a large alarm clock display and slide program was open to all interested convention attendees. There were over 60 alarm clocks of various sizes and shapes on display to pique the interest of old and new collectors alike.

Two HBACC members graciously brought recently acquired alarm clocks for show and tell. Mr. Marshall Knowlton proudly displayed his Herschedes alarm clock from the 1950's with the original box and instructions.

Mr. Robert Linkenhofer happily showed the group his restored double-bell alarm clock believed to be German with a Turkish numeral dial.

Vince and Phyllis

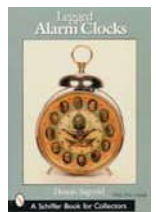


Chapter President, Vince Angell, then conducted a short meeting. He brought up the possibility of redoing and updating the club bylaws. He mentioned the chapter goal in 2005 was to create two new alarm clock programs, and last, he discussed the possibility of developing an official HBACC Internet forum.

-- Phyllis Angell --

Errata

Dennis Sagvold, highlighted in the *Author Feature* section of Volume 4, 2005, author of the book Legged Alarm Clocks. He has asked that the following errata be passed along to members of the club.



I just purchased an alarm clock that changes my thoughts on an article in my book. On page 81 at the top is a New Haven clock for which I describe the top piece listed as not original. Since I had never seen that top before and it didn't match the New Haven style, I just assumed it wasn't original. However, I just purchased another clock with the pie crust bezel - and it.

-- Dennis Sagvold --

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early alarms. BUT: when the walls are full you have to collect smaller ones ! As has perhaps happened to many of us, my interests changed to smaller clocks. Some of my collection is shown in the photos on this and the next page.

Best wishes,

-- Wolfgang --

Figure 1: Ansonia Jokers, one with a Trade Card for the Peep O'Day Carriage.



Figure 2: Left and two right most are Seth Thomas. Second, third and fourth from left are Junghans



Figure 4: Two Seth Thomas carriage clocks.





Figure 3: Top Row (left to right): First is oval Starkey, second, third and fourth are HAC. Waterbury is fifth, Ansonia is 6th and Ingraham 7th.

Bottom Row: The first six are Waterburys and the seventh is a Westclox.



Figure 5: Displayed top left are German Jokers. A variety of manufacturers are shown including Junghans, Pfeilkreuz, Baduf, Kienzle and Hamburg American Clock Company (HAC). In German HAC is *Hamburg Amerikanische Uhrenfabrik* (HAU). HAC is situated in the Black Forest - Schramberg. These are also known as 'crossed arrows'. Most of the early German 'tin' alarm clocks were produced in the Black Forest region.



The bottom left displays a variety of carriage clocks.

Figure 7: Close-ups of a few in Figure 3.



Figure 8: Four (of many) examples of German ACs with nice ornate 'handles' and two bells.



In Memoriam

Richard C. Tjarks, FNAWCC (1950 – 2005)

In 1980 I had been out of college for a year, and my passion was collecting and studying Westclox Big Ben and Baby Ben alarm clocks. In May 1980 I attended the NAWCC Mid-America regional in Indianapolis, and saw that there was to be a program about Big Ben and Baby Ben Alarm Clocks. Of course I attended, and afterward met the speaker, Richard Tjarks. We began corresponding, and decided to join efforts in Westclox research. We found that we had a lot in common, and became best friends. We attended many NAWCC regional conventions together, continued our Westclox research, published an article in the NAWCC Bulletin in 1983, and coordinated a large Westclox exhibit at the NAWCC National convention in 1984.

Richard's interest in clocks and watches began with three alarm clocks given to him by his grandmother when he was 12 years old. He joined the NAWCC in 1969 (member # 18725) and became an active member of George E. Lee – Michiana Chapter 26 in 1971. Richard served the chapter as secretary, vice-president and president; as well as being contest chairman, program chairman, photographer and Bulletin reporter (among other duties he eagerly assumed). He was co-chairman of the Mid-America regional for two years and served in other capacities for many years. Richard was made an NAWCC Fellow in 1993.

Richard enjoyed collecting and researching antique American clocks and watches, and had a unique talent for clock case and dial restoration. He often won first place in the annual Chapter 26 restoration contest. Richard had a knack for making a restored clock look superb, but natural – it would look like a well preserved antique, and not an obvious restoration. Richard also enjoyed early battery clocks and Telechron clocks. Richard was co-owner of LaGrange Title Company in LaGrange, Indiana, was an active member of his church, the Kiwanis club, and LaGrange County Historical Society.

In 2000, Richard was diagnosed with a rare disease called Myeloid Fibrosis, in which the bone marrow does not make enough red blood cells. There is no cure, but periodic blood transfusions helped him maintain his strength. Through it all, Richard's faith and positive attitude enabled him to enjoy life almost until the end, and he passed away on February 28, 2005. He is survived by his widow, Lisa and two sons, Adam and Seth. His friendship and eagerness to help will be missed.

Bill Stoddard