

IT'S ABOUT
TIME !



50th Anniversary Year



Happy Thanksgiving



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<http://nawcc50.org>

President:

Mark Smith
206-795-6721

Vice President:

Cecilia Dunn
425-478-4400

Treasurer:

Ron Kowalski
360-319-5554

Secretary:

Dick Krueger
425-205-0448

Internet/Director:

John Runciman
206-362-6385

Bulletin:

Sunshine Committee:

Jan Jaussaud
360-871-2830

Director:

John Stewart
206-525-3987

Director:

Dale Koepke
206-824-3325

2014 Regional

Co-Chairs:

Chet Ekstrand
253-630-9406

Jack Goldberg
425-392-2554

Last Chance!

"HAPPY HOROLOGICAL HOLIDAY"

It is nearly time for our annual Holiday Party! Sunday, December 7th, with Mart and Hospitality beginning at 9AM, and Brunch at about 11:30AM. If you have not yet signed up to attend, please do it now!

You will not want to miss the Program by Brittany Cox on "The Musical Organ Clocks by Charles Clay and Frederic Handel".

Reservations should be in to Ron Kowalski by Friday, November 28th.

You will find the flyer with more information, directions and a reservation form at the end of this newsletter. Please join us!

Remember to bring something for the Mart! This is the one Mart of the year that is not restricted to horological items.

All sorts of things are welcome for the Holiday Mart!



KEEP
CALM
AND
GOBBLE
ON

November Meeting Report

On Sunday, November 9th, we gathered at the Edmonds Senior Center for our November Chapter 50 meeting. In spite of the good weather and a home game for the Seahawks, we had a good turnout of about 31 members and friends.

We were very happy to welcome several new members and visitors. Our new members that joined at this meeting were: Drew Ritland from Everett, Roy Moldenhauer from Ferndale and Darren Yomogida from Seattle. (Darren is a student in the Watch Technology program at North Seattle Community College, as is Katy Harris from Seattle — one of our visitors). Also visiting were Rod and Minerva Conley from Marysville.

The one disappointment at this meeting was the very small amount of items offered at the Mart. Maybe all of our sellers were at the Seahawks game? Many of our potential buyers had to go home with money still in their pockets!

After a short business meeting, we were treated to a very interesting program by Rubens Sigelmann on “Everything you wanted to know about Tuning Fork Watches”. Rubens took us through this history of the tuning fork watches — from the development of them, through the demise of the tuning fork watch at the hands of the replacement quartz movement watches.



Members watching Rubens' Tuning Fork Watches presentation



Rubens explaining Tuning Fork Watches to us

Chapter 50 -- Upcoming Meetings



December 7th – Joint Ch. 50 & 135 Christmas Party. Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle. Hosted by Chapter 50. Program by Brittany Cox on “Musical Organ Clocks by Charles Clay & Frederic Hanel”

January 11th – Regular meeting – Edmonds Senior Center. The program will be by Clint Harris on “CNC gear cutting”.

February 8th – Regular meeting – Edmonds Senior Center.

March 8th – Regular meeting – Edmonds Senior Center.

April 12th – Regular meeting – Edmonds Senior Center.

DUES !

OK, YOU KNOW THE DRILL! IF YOU DID NOT PAY YOUR DUES AT THE LAST MEETING, YOU ARE PROBABLY DUE.. PAY UP!! ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE WATCH

And

WHY YOU MAY NOT WANT IT!!!

A spectacular Patek Philippe Supercomplication pocket watch was sold at Sotheby's in Geneva on November 11th for 23.2 million Swiss francs (\$24 million US). This was a new record for any timepiece sold at auction. This watch has held this record since 1999 when it last sold at Sotheby's for \$11 million.



This watch was originally ordered by Henry Graves, Jr., a New York banker, in 1925 aiming to surpass James Ward Packard, an Ohio based inventor and auto manufacturer who had been buying complicated pieces from Patek Phillippe for years. Graves paid \$15,000 for the watch, which was delivered in 1933, and is often credited with keeping the Swiss watchmaker in business during the Great Depression.

The timepiece — with two clock faces, one on each side — has 24 complications. One shows the phases of the Moon, others the times of sunset and sunrise in New York and even the pattern of the stars each night above Mr. Graves's apartment in the city. There are complications revealing the days of the week, an alarm, a stopwatch and a perpetual calendar. This watch far surpassed the one that Packard had commissioned.

Yet the masterpiece that became known as the Graves Supercomplication never brought its owner the pleasure that he expected.

After he had taken delivery of the watch in 1933, it seemed to bring him not only unwanted attention but



great misfortune. It was the time of the Great Depression, and Graves had become a figure of public resentment after people who were starving and destitute discovered that he could spend thousands on such luxuries.

But the banker believed the watch had brought him far worse than bad publicity. Just 7 months after Graves received that watch, his best friend died. And worse was to come. In early November 1934, Graves learned that his youngest son had been killed in a car crash. This was made even worse by the fact the he had already lost his eldest son in a car crash in 1922.

For Graves, the Supercomplication was a bad talisman, something meant to bring him joy but had, instead, ushered in grief and hateful publicity. At one point he had come close to selling the watch, but decided against it.

Graves Supercomplication, Con't.



One day in 1936, he was out on Upper Saranac Lake in upstate New York, in his favorite boat, a 50' speed

boat, the Eagle. His daughter Gwendolen was with him. He had stopped the boat and pulled the large watch out of his pocket and looked at it intensely. "Such things bring one nothing but trouble", said Graves, who was by then in his late 60's. "Notoriety brings bad fortune". As the boat bobbed in the water, Gwendolen watched her father as he seemed about to throw the Supercomplication into the lake. "No daddy", Gwendolen implored, "let me hold on to that. Some day I might want that". Graves lowered his arm and Gwendolen reached forward gingerly and took the watch from his hand and put it in her pocket.

From then on, Gwendolen held on to the watch. Her father lost interest in an item he had craved all his life—a life that was to end in 1953 when he was 86.

After his death, Gwendolen inherited the Supercomplication and in 1960 passed it to her son, Reginald 'Pete' Fullerton, who sold it to Seth G. Atwood, an industrialist from Illinois for \$200,000.

Atwood was the founder of the Time Museum in Rockford, IL and the watch was on display in this Museum from 1970 to 1999.

In 1999 the Time Museum was closed and the Supercomplication, along with other items from the collection were sold by Sotheby's, New York.

The watch sold for a record \$11M, and was purchased by a member of the Qatari royal family. It was exhibited at the Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva from 2001—2005.

In 2012 the Supercomplication was pledged to Sotheby's, along with other collectibles, by the Sheikh. This was to cover some of the debt that the Sheikh owed to Sotheby's, said to exceed \$100M!

Sotheby's sold the watch in November 2014 to coincide with Patek's 175th Anniversary.

It is said that the Sheikh died 2 days before the watch was sold. We don't know the identity of the buyer who paid \$24M for this unique watch, nor how his fate will be affected.....



"HAPPY HOROLOGICAL HOLIDAY"



PUGET·SOUND·NAWCC·CHAPTERS·50·&·135
"2014·CHRISTMAS·PARTY"

Sunday,·December·7,·2014¶

Mart·9:00AM·—·Brunch·11:30AM¶

Only·\$25.00·per·person¶

(Mart·set·up·8:30·—·9:00·AM,·NO·SALES·OR·DEAL·MAKING·BEFORE·9:00·AM)¶

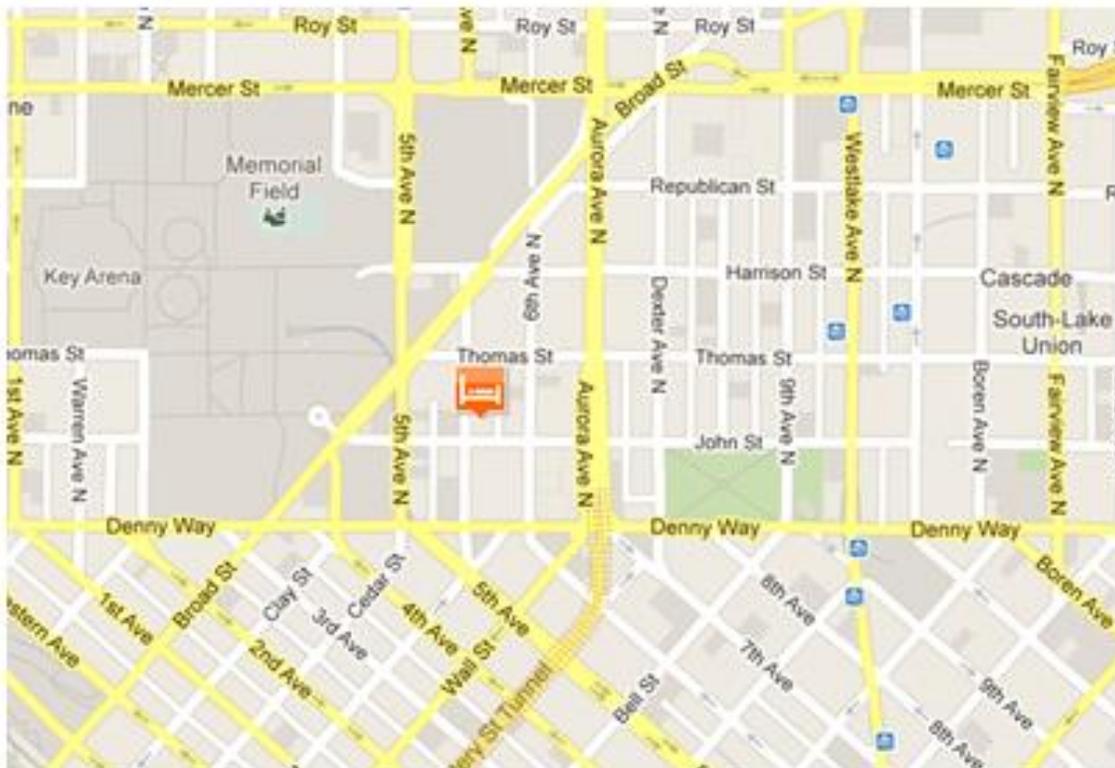
(Coffee·and·water·will·be·provided·from·9AM·through·our·departure)¶

Executive·Inn,·200·Taylor·Avenue·North,·
Seattle,·WA·98109¶

PROGRAM·By:·Brittany·Cox¶

"Musical·Organ·Clocks·by·Charles·Clay·and·
Frederic·Handel"¶

HOSTED·BY:
NAWCC·PUGET·SOUND·CHAPTER·50



**LOCATION: BEST WESTERN EXECUTIVE INN
200 TAYLOR AVENUE N, SEATTLE, WA 98109
PHONE 206-448-9444**

NOTE: DUE TO EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTH LAKE UNION AREA, PARKING WILL BE LIMITED. CARPOOLING IS STRONGLY ADVISED.

Return with payment by **November 28th!**

Member Name & NAWCC #: _____

Phone Number: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Total number attending: _____

Mart Table Requested: Yes _____ No _____ (Check one - included in brunch fee)

Payment amount: \$ _____ (\$25.00 X number attending)

(Optional payment of \$10.00 if attending Mart without participating in Brunch)

Make check payable to: **NAWCC Chapter 50!**

Send payment to: Ron Kowalski, 3681 S Heather Pl., Bellingham, WA 98226!

360-319-5554!