

IT'S ABOUT TIME!



50th Anniversary Year



**National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors
Chapter 50 Puget Sound**

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 1

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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

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Bulletin:

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Sunshine Committee:

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360-871-2830

Director:

John Stewart
206-525-3987

Director:

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Chet Ekstrand
253-630-9406

Jack Goldberg
425-392-2554

The Test of Time

Thomas Tompion, the man & his timepieces.

Thomas Tompion, a 17th-century London clockmaker, designed weight and spring mechanisms that remain reliable to this day, and scholars have dismantled hundreds of his watches and clocks. The machinery, however, is better understood than the man; no one knows much about his background except that he was a blacksmith's son from Bedfordshire.

"There's absolutely no record whatsoever of where he went, where he trained," John C. Taylor, a British inventor and historian who has been collecting Tompion timepieces for two decades, said in an interview. Dr. Taylor has lent the works for "Majestic Time," a Tompion retrospective running through Jan. 19 at the National Watch & Clock Museum in Columbia, Pa.

Dr. Taylor's watches have been deemed too fragile to wind and keep running, but the clocks chime punctually and their gears, in some instances, are exposed. Visitors

have been peering intently into the display cases. "There's a lot of forehead prints on the glass," Noel Poirier, the museum's director, said.

The collection is normally on view at Dr. Taylor's isolated elliptical house on the Isle of Man. Some of the machines keep better time than others, he said, but he enjoys the steady ticking soundtrack. "You go and talk to them and they're friends, they have characters," he said.

Travel to other continents is not necessarily healthy for clocks, but Dr. Taylor wanted the collection to be seen widely. "There's nothing worse than beautiful objects not being available to be appreciated," he said. (The collection was also displayed briefly at a clock symposium in Pasadena, Calif., in November.)



The Test of Time, Con't.



Tompion was baptized at a Bedfordshire church in 1639 and apprenticed to a London clockmaker in the 1660s. He commissioned carved wooden cases and components from other artisans, but he somehow maintained strict quality control. "Tompion was a supreme perfectionist," Dr. Taylor said.

Tompion never married, but he was apparently close to his nieces; two

of them married apprentices to the clockmaker. Legend has it that Tompion at some point discovered that one of them, Edward Banger, by then a partner, was having an affair with a servant; timepieces that Tompion made with Banger have been found with his former apprentice's signature defaced. "Tompion even cut out the word 'Banger' and put a plate over it," Dr. Taylor said.



© The Fitzwilliam Museum

In 2003 Sotheby's in London sold a Tompion clock with Banger's name sliced out of it for \$1.5 million. Six-figure prices are more customary: Last month a Tompion clock covered in gilded cherubs brought \$321,000 at a Bonhams auction in London.

The British Museum is exhibiting a Tompion clock through Feb. 2 that belonged to British royalty; the museum bought it for around \$870,000 through Christie's in London in 1982.

A few Tompion works are also on view in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's British decorative arts galleries. A 1670s clock in an olivewood and ivory case with Tompion's signature incised in the face is keeping good time and chiming the quarter-hours near a 1670s staircase salvaged from a Hertfordshire estate. Its dials also take note of the phases of the moon and the schedules for high tides at London Bridge.



Text of this article courtesy of NY Times, Jan. 3rd.
Thanks to Jeffrey Grossman for bringing it to my attention.

February 9th Meeting

Does it seem like a loooooong time since last meeting? It does to me. We did not have a meeting in January, so that you all could recover from the Christmas Party and your other Holiday Events. Hopefully now we all will be ready to go for the start of Chapter 50s –50th Anniversary Year!

On February 9th, we will start our year with our meeting at the regular meeting spot — Edmonds Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA. Our Mart and Hospitality time starts at 12:30 PM, with a brief business meeting to follow at 1:30PM.

We will kick off the year of exciting programs with a Show and Tell — with the letter V (for Valentines Day). Horological items that involve the letter “V”, or are Valentines related are encouraged.

Upcoming Meetings

Please put these dates on your new calendar for 2014!

February — 9th, meeting in Edmonds.

March — 9th, meeting in Edmonds.

April — 13th, meeting in Edmonds.

May — 15-17 Pacific Northwest Regional — Tacoma
NO REGULAR MEETING IN EDMONDS

Chapter Dues

It's DUES time again! Dues for the 2014 year are now due for all of us. The cost is still the low low rate of \$15.00 per year.

We have received dues payments from about 26 of our members, but that still leaves almost half of our regular members un-paid. We would appreciate getting this caught up early in the year, so that we know we can cover the expenses for the year.

As most of you know, your dues payment primarily goes toward covering the expense of rental of our meeting room, and the coffee and snacks for our meetings.

Please come to our February meeting prepared to pay your dues, or you can mail your dues payment to our Treasurer, Ron Kowalski, 3681 S Heather Place, Bellingham, WA 98226. *Thanks* to all who have already paid their dues.

Early Dues Payment Drawing

As you may remember, we announced this bit of encouragement for you to get your Chapter 50 dues paid early. The announced rules were — for all who got their dues paid by 12/31/2013, we would draw one name to get FREE dues for the 2015 year. The following folks paid their dues by year end and are thus eligible for the drawing.

Tom Balow	Clinton Harris	John Meisch
Paul Bellamy	Lenus Heintz	Norm Nelson
Hans Dahlke	Les Hesketh	Bill Porter
Jim Dorrance	Phil Johansen	David Rosenbaum
Glen Ellington	Dale Koepke	Bob Selene
Steve Gammon	Ron Kowalski	Mark Smith
Louis Geisert	Dick Krueger	Bob Spence
Jeffrey Grossman	William Lazarus	Oliver Stark

If you don't see your name on this list it is likely that you still owe dues for 2014.

We will draw for the winner of this award at our February 9th meeting. See you there!

Classified Section

(Still) Wanted: Chelsea Barometer

If you have a "surplus" Chelsea Barometer, or know of someone who does, please contact Ron Kowalski.

Ron Kowalski
3681 S Heather Pl
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 319-5554
ron.k@comcast.net

If YOU have something you'd like to buy, sell or trade, please submit to Dick Krueger, 22623 133rd Ave SE, Snohomish, 98296, or email it to dickkr1@frontier.com.

Help Wanted!!!

Regional Registration

May 15 - 17, 2014

As some of you know, it has been decided that we will use the NAWCC National registration computer program for both Pre-registration and On-Site registration. There are a number of advantages to the program – ease of pulling up membership status information, many reports automatically generated, etc.

At this point, the challenge is that only a few people have been exposed to this program, and it will be a new thing for our on-site registration.

Julia Mueller has graciously agreed to again be in charge of our on-site registration, and she needs help. We would especially ask that those of you who feel comfortable working on a computer – doing email or word processing, would volunteer to help at the desk during the Regional. We would expect to have one or more training sessions so you could learn the basics of the program before the actual live registration. So, if you could help here, please contact Julia Mueller — momjulia@hotmail.com, or 253-759-4862.

I should also add that only a few people will be on the computers. Others will be required to greet, take money, etc. So if you're not comfortable on a computer, but would be willing to help out, please contact Julia also.

Other Regional Info

Your Regional Committee is hard at work, trying to anticipate all the little details that will be involved in putting on a successful Regional. It is our hope that everyone will enjoy the return to the Tacoma location in a nicely remodeled hotel facility.

Our registration form has been published in the National MART booklet, and we have begun to receive registrations. If we do not have YOUR registration yet, now is the time! The registration form will be included in this newsletter for your convenience.



NAWCC Pacific Northwest Regional



May 15, 16, & 17, 2014

Featuring: **ENGLISH HOROLOGY**
Open to public May 17th - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

New Location - Hotel Murano (Formerly Sheraton) - 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA

\$500 in Mart Dollars Drawing – Mini Universities!

Hosts: Puget Sound Chapters 50 (Puget Sound) & 135 (Mt. Rainer)

Co-hosts: Pacific Northwest Ch. 31, Inland Empire Ch. 53, British Columbia Ch. 121, and Willamette Valley Ch. 157

General Chairs: Jack Goldberg – 425-392-2554 and Chet Ekstrand – 253-630-9406

Email: Jack: jackgoldberg@nawcc50.org- Chet: chetekstrand@nawcc50.org- Website: www.nawcc50.org/regional.html

Thursday, May 15th		Friday, May 16th		Saturday, May 17th	
2:00 pm	Registration Open Mart Setup	8:00 am	Registration opens Mart Setup	8:00 am	Registration opens
4:00 pm	Early Mart Entry		Early Mart Entry	8:30 am	Mart Setup
6:00 pm	Mart Setup Closes Registration Closes	9:00 am	Mart Opens	9:00 am	Mart Opens
7:00 pm	Reception Hors d'oeuvres/No-host Bar	12:00 pm	Luncheon Brittany Cox "Conservation of Automaton's"	10:00 am	Mart Opens to Public
7:30 pm	Keynote Address: Dennis Radage "English Horology"	5:00 pm	Mart Closes	1:00 pm	Mart Money Drawing!
		6:00 pm	Social Hour/No Host Bar	5:00 pm	Mart Closes
		7:00 pm	Banquet: John Connolly "Clocks of the Emperor's"	5:00 pm	Security Closes

- Only NAWCC members, spouses, and their children under 18 will be admitted to the mart.
- If you are registering anyone other than immediate family, list their NAWCC numbers.
- NAWCC Regional rules apply and will be enforced.
- Officers and members of the NAWCC and 2014 Pacific Northwest Regional are not responsible for any loss, damage, injury, or tort during the Regional.
- Table Holders requesting adjacent tables must register in the same envelope (only one last name per table please).

Hotel reservations: Hotel Murano, - Registration Link at www.nawcc50.org/regional.html

Phone: 1-888-862-3255 or 253-238-8000. Mention NAWCC Regional for rate of \$109.00.

FEES/REGISTRATION FORM (No confirmations mailed or refunds made after April 30, 2014)

Check box (if applicable): Fellow Old Timer Silver Star National Officer

Member: _____ NAWCC No. _____

Significant Other: _____ NAWCC No. _____

Children: _____ (under age 18 free)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Tel.: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Pre-Registration Member* _____ @ \$30.00 ea. _____

Pre-Registration Spouse* _____ @ \$30.00 ea. _____

Registration Member's Children under 18 _____ @ No charge _____

Early Mart Entry _____ @ \$35.00 _____

Friday Luncheon _____ @ \$20.00 ea. _____

Friday Dinner Banquet _____ @ \$28.00 ea. _____

6-Foot Mart Table** _____ @ \$35.00 ea. _____

Special Dietary Needs? _____ No _____ Yes (If yes, we will contact you)

*Registration at the door: \$35

Total Enclosed \$: _____

**Make checks payable to:
NAWCC Regional Fund
Mail to:
Dick Krueger (Registration Chair)
22623 133rd Ave SE
Snohomish, WA 98296-3919**

**Phone: 425-205-0448
Email: dickkr1@frontier.com**