



# Loupes and Tweezers

The Official Newsletter of THE HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

Horological Association  
of Virginia, Inc.

2004 Issue Number 4

October 2004

## HAV Members honored with AWCI Awards



Paul Fisk & Alice Carpenter

Photo by Lloyd Lehn

### **Congratulations Alice!**

Alice Carpenter, HAV member, Secretary of the American Watchmakers and Clockmakers Institute (AWCI) Board of the Directors, and member of AWCI Board of Directors was awarded an AWCI Fellow award - the first women to be so honored!

### **Congratulations Paul!**

Paul Fisk, longtime horologist, HAV member, and Potomac Guild member was honored at the August 2004 AWCI Annual Meeting in Portland Maine with the AWCI Lifetime Achievement Award.

Presenting the awards were Horological Association of Maryland members Dan Spath and Gerry Kincaid, both of whom routinely attend HAV events.

## HAV appreciates Lowell Fast !

Many thanks to Lowell Fast for his tremendous effort for a successful HAV 2004 Annual Convention. Lowell was the Chairman for this tremendous event; he worked countless hours arranging guest speakers, convention accommodations, meals, administrative and logistical details, and scheduling. Thanks, Lowell, for your continuing contributions to HAV!

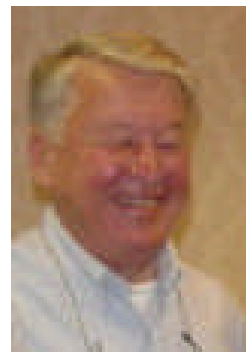


Photo by Bill Buggert



Photo by Bill Buggert

Tuck instructing HAV horologists at the 2004 Convention in Lynchburg, VA

For those of you lucky enough to have experienced Tuck Tompkins' knowledge at the HAV 2004 Annual Convention this past April, will have another opportunity at the HAV Fall Seminar on October 3, 2004. For those of you who missed the Annual Convention, you will have another chance.

He and Lowell Fast will share

their expertise on "Restoration of a Paper Weight Clock" and that is an event to look forward to. Previously, Tuck gave a class on Antique Watch Restoration at this year's convention. His talk was well received by both watch and clock enthusiasts and clearly shows his vast horological knowledge and expertise. We are fortunate to have him as an instructor at the Fall Seminar. Sign up today!

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## Potomac Guild enjoys Picnic Camaraderie



Photo by George Evans

tours of his estate (which even includes a massive tree house). Many thanks to Donnie and Susan Sobel for hosting this wonderful event.

On Sunday, August 29, 2004, the George McNeil Potomac Guild gathered at Donnie Sobel's lovely country estate outside Manassas, VA for the its' annual picnic. Members and spouses attended the afternoon affair and part-took in grilled delights (see photo at right of Donnie and Ralph Smith) and covered dishes. Equally enjoyable was the opportunity to view Donnie's extensive collection of rare clocks, enjoy his private lake, and his conducted



Photo by George Evans

## Feature of the issue



Photo by Bill Baigent

During a recent visit to the Harpers Ferry, WV National Park historic area, I (The Editor) was delighted to see a small separate building with a recreated clock and watch repair shop. Configured for easy viewing by tourists, was a Plexiglas enclosed work bench and horological item display. If you look closely,

you can see an assortment of old hand tools and even a "human powered" bench lathe.

Period local and national clocks and watches were displayed as if ready for sale. For those of you that don't know, West Virginia was part of Virginia until 1863. On your next visit, check it out!

## Know Your Fellow HAV Members

As a continuing feature, the editor will feature a photo of a fellow HAV member for you to identify. The identity of this individual can be found elsewhere in this issue.

**Who is this handsome couple?**



Photo by Bill Baigent



## A Bit of History of the HAV

By  
John D. Miller, CMW, CMC

*Editor's note: The original text has been edited but the meaning and context is unchanged.*

Here is a small bit of history of the Horological Association of Virginia (HAV) as I remember it happening. When I got the idea of a State association, I was still in the U.S. Navy doing instrument work; I saw the need for some education for some who were attempting to do watch repair work, most of whom were simply hobbyists and did not appear to hold much knowledge of the trade. I was buying material for the Navy from the Herr & Kline Co. in Norfolk, VA when I became aware of this. There appeared to be quite a bit of animosity amongst the various watch repairmen with whom I came into contact. I did not think that this would be in any way helpful for anyone. I personally had been doing some work for the U.S. Naval Observatory and I was about to retire from the Navy. I had become a Certified Master Watchmaker through the Horological Institute of America (HIA) and also a CMC.

I settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia around the Staunton area where I opened a jewelry store. I met another friend who had been in the U.S. Army doing just about the same thing that I had been involved in. He and I had become aware of the same type of goings on there and between the two of us, had arrived at the same conclusion. We both traveled to Richmond, Virginia each month to attend meetings they held at a small guild they were operating. Since this was over a 100 mile drive, we set about seeing if we could start up a group there in the Staunton area. We did and the "Shenandoah Valley Guild" was born with membership composed of men from Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County, Harrisonburg, Clifton Forge, and Covington. We had a membership of twenty or so folks.

With some of the same situations existing in other neighborhoods as I noticed in Norfolk, I felt it would be great if we could set about bringing into being a statewide organization; so along about 1950, I made trips to Richmond, Roanoke, and Lynchburg to see if I could spark some interest in doing this. After several attempts, I was successful in getting some folks together; four to be exact, all of whom have passed away. They were very helpful in organizing the state. There were a couple of material salesmen who traveled over most of the state, whom we enlisted their help in creating interest in the various watch repairmen to join a guild. By this time, we felt that it could become a non-profit educational operation. After much work with the State Corporation Commission, we got everything organized as the state would require it to be. We had set about, with the help of an attorney in Richmond, getting a constitution approved. We accomplished this finally and we were in business; however, we still needed a seal and an emblem. I took the one that I had

designed for the Shenandoah Valley Guild, made some changes, and it is the one in use today. After we had been in operation for a number of years, we thought it would be very useful if we were to become licensed entity. The reasoning behind this move was that there was a need to have quality work being done. I was a railroad watch inspector and had noticed there was a great deal of sloppy work being done and the railroads required some very accurate work to be done on their employees' watches. We set about getting the wheels in motion for a law giving us a license. We used the money we would collect from the conventions we were holding and, through the attorney, got one of our house of delegate members to carry this bill before the house. Now after all of the work done in getting this bill formed on the very day that it came up for a statewide vote, there were only two of us who showed up. BANG! The legislators made the statement "That if this is all who are interested enough to attend, they don't need a law!" So, down the drain went all the money we had expended. I am not sure just how many of the first members who joined us are still living, but I do know that there are some. Some are living in Florida and I know there is one or two living here in Tidewater and possibly around Roanoke and maybe Lynchburg. I never thought that I would still be around at 87, but I am still kicking. "Thanks for the ride!"

Now is some history on the formation of AWI. Many of the states, who had active state associations, sent delegates to Chicago, IL to help form a national organization. From Virginia, John D. Miller of Waynesboro and Gene Hare of Covington went as delegates. We were joined by Henry Freid, New York, Richard "Dick" Slough of the Hamilton Watch Co. in Lancaster, PA, "Dean" Wm. Samelious of the Elgin Watch Co., Elgin IL, Orville Hagans of UHAA, and Dick Slough, representing the HIA of Washington, DC. Of course, there were delegates from Indiana, Illinois, Florida, Wisconsin, and Washington State. I am sure there may have been more. HIA and UHAA had both just about played out as both sets of members were growing older and were tired. There was a need for a new and upcoming organization, such as AWI. We spent about four or five days getting all this done. Today, we have the AWI. *(Editor's note: Now it is the AWCJ).*

John D. Miller, CMW/CMW, AIG

The original founder and associates, all of whom are gone  
Clyde Wilkins (d)

Lloyd Petty

Mr. Hennebry Roanoke, Jr.



## Stan's Komputer Korner

By Stan Palen

This is a regular column for Loupes and Tweezers. It includes computer information for IBM compatible computers in the form of hints, helps, suggestions and news. Please submit your questions to Stan Palen, 8283 Oakwood Drive, King George, VA 22485 or via email to [spalen@crosslink.net](mailto:spalen@crosslink.net). Please note that this column is often submitted for publication 30 to 60 days before publication. I now have a web page located at: [www.stanpalen.com](http://www.stanpalen.com). My columns will be posted there when I have completed them.

Two column ago, I was discussing my problems with the video card in my new Dell computer. The problem is still there. I spent three days so far talking to Dell and doing what they asked with no results. Today, I have been waiting for over 24 hours for a call back from a video/monitor specialist. They do not seem to like it when they find out that I do not have a Dell monitor. Every time I talk to one of their technical folks I seem to get a different approach. The technician I talked to yesterday told me my cable or my monitor had to be bad because I had 4 green test lights on the back of my computer. I took my monitor and cable to a neighbor's house and verified that my monitor and cable were working fine. I called again this evening and got hung up on 3 times. The last one I talked to told me I had to have a Dell monitor for them to help me.

For my birthday, I got a Pocket PC, which is a significant upgrade from my old PDA. I am still learning about what it can do. I was disappointed that the PDA files for address book, date book, expenses, and others are not compatible with the Pocket PC. With some tinkering, I was able to convert the data I needed to Excel files and copy those to the Pocket PC.

The Pocket PC is neat in that it runs Excel and I can keep selected files current with my main computer. It will run Internet Explorer, and several other standard Windows programs.

In my last column I discussed the need for firewalls and virus programs. I have both and keep them current. Yesterday I ran my virus program and it found one that got in somehow. Today I ran my Spybot Search & Destroy program and it found that one of those got in too. Spybot is a program that will monitor your activities and report them



Photo by Bill Berger

back to the originator of the program. Some of these programs monitor keystrokes in order to get passwords, etc. Spybot is a free download and it has become a necessary one. It is available at [www.NoAdaware.net](http://www.NoAdaware.net). It also stops most of the extraneous adds.

Where are your backups? Are they next to the computer? You should send one off site once in a while. If you have a website, it probably has some storage you could use for critical files. There are storage sites that you can send your files to also. You can encrypt them so they are unreadable if you are concerned about privacy. You can write your files to a CD or DVD and mail them to a friend.

I have not had a reliable automatic backup program on my newest system since I got it. I tried to use the backup program in Windows XP, but it would not write to my DVD writer. I bought ZipBackup and it had the same problem. It would back up fine, but to my hard drive. I would then have to manually write the back up file to a CD. (And remember to delete the back up.) That is not very automatic. I purchased NERO 6. It does a lot of things, including automatic backups to CDs or DVDs. It does some video editing. I will experiment with some of the capabilities for the next newsletter.

The author is retired from the Navy as a Supervisory General Engineer. He has been involved with computers since the early sixties. He used to purchase all the hardware and software for a group of 40 scientists and engineers. He has marketed Swim Meet programs nationally. He was an associate editor of the Apple II section of the Washington Apple Pie a computer users group based in Washington DC.



## Two (Count 'em) Two Fall Seminars !!

### **Horological Association of Virginia**

When: Sunday, October 3, 2004; 8AM-4PM

Where: Best Western Airport Inn  
5700 Williamsburg Road  
Sandston, VA 23150-1316

Telephone: (804) 222-2780. Twenty rooms are available through September 2nd at \$49 if you mention HAV. You must make your own reservations.

Registration Fee: \$35 By return mail (Checks made payable to HAV, Inc.); \$40 at the door from 7:30-8:00 AM. Lunch arrangements TBD.

#### **Subjects:**

This fall some of the outstanding talents from HAV will be presenting joint programs of interest to both clockmakers and watchmakers.

Herbert Hollander      Cross Indexing of Material

Clarence Hardy          Time Inspector Requirements for Railroad Watches

Tuck Tompkins/  
Lowell Fast              Restoration of a Paper Weight Clock

Davis Todd              Doing Things Right in Restoration

Address: Ralph W. Smith, Jr.

9617 Ceralene Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22032-1703

Phone: (703) 425-9156

email: Ralph.smith35@verizon.net

### **Horological Association of Maryland**

When: Sunday, October 24, 2004; 9AM-5PM

Where: Days Inn  
1660 Whitehead Blvd.  
Room 403  
Baltimore, Md. 21207

Directions: Take I 695 to Exit 17 (Security Blvd.) then right on Whitehead Blvd.

Registration Fee: \$60.00 including on-site buffet lunch

#### **Guest Speaker: August Cornell**

August Cornell is a well known instructor and speaker in both the jewelry and watchmaking worlds. Beginners and seasoned watch and clock repair personnel benefit equally from his insightful and useful approach to timepiece repair and restoration.

#### **Subjects:**

There will be two sessions one covering clocks and one on watches. The clock session will cover "Common wear problems in American Clocks - Too worn to run but not to repair".

The session on watches has not at this point been finalized.

If interested please contact Jack Bishop. Class size is limited.

Address: 2 Lynhaven Court  
Severna Park, Md. 21146

Phone: (410) 647-9057

email: jlbishop2@juno.com



# Draft Minutes of the August 15, 2004 HAV Board of Directors Meeting - Courtesy of HAV Secretary, Lloyd Lehn, CC

Editor's note: These minutes will be draft until approved at the next HAV Board meeting

The Board of Directors of the Horological Association of Virginia met in a Holiday Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia at 1000 hours on 15 August 2005.

## 1 Attendees

- President - Mike Frost
- First Vice President - Lowell Fast
- Second Vice President - John Enloe
- Secretary - Lloyd Lehn
- Treasurer - Stan Palen
- Immediate Past President - Bill Trapp
- Loupes and Tweezers Editor - Bill Bugert
- Directors/Alt - George McNeil's Potomac - Ralph Smith, Dick Riegel, Steve Leonard
- Directors - Peninsula
- Directors - South Side - Clarence E. Hardy
- Directors - Tidewater
- Directors - Tri City - Tuck Tompkins, Lowell Fast
- Directors - At Large - Stan Palen
- Guests - Franks Cihlar

**2 Invocation** - Ralph Smith provided the invocation.

**3 Minutes** - The minutes of the April 18, 2004 HAV Board meeting were distributed and approved.

## 4 Officer's Reports

### 4.1 Treasurer

#### 4.1.1 Treasurer's Report

- HAV currently has \$19,969.96 (handout provided)

#### 4.1.2 Budget 2004-2005

The budget proposed was slightly modified and then approved. The changes were: a) change AWCI annual meeting cost to \$1600 and b) need a line for the fall seminar.

## 5 Other Business

### 5.1 2004 Convention

Lowell Fast prepared a report indicating HAV made \$87 on the convention. However, AWCI recently sent us a bill for Laurie Penman's expenses totaling \$321. Thus we will have lost \$234.

### 5.2 2004 Fall Seminar

- Chairman/Coordinator: Ralph Smith

- Date: 3 Oct 2004

- Location: Best Western in Sandston VA

- Content: Parallel sessions for watches and clocks. Ralph wants to use HAV members

to give a one or two hour talk. He is looking for volunteers.

- Tuck and Lowell are preparing a talk on watches

- Chick Hardy offered to talk on railroad watches.

- David Todd will speak.

### 5.3 AWCI Annual Meeting

Lloyd Lehn provided a handout on his trip the the AWCI annual meeting and discussed it for the group.

HAV submitted four motions in the Affiliates meeting.

- All AWCI committees will report semi-annually and those reports will be published to the members. (The original motion said published in HT. Some folks objected. The new web page will be just as well.)

- AWCI will establish a video committee to preclude issuing poor quality video tapes

- AWCI will automate the affiliates annual report so it can be transmitted/published electronically

- AWCI will charge the HT committee to produce an authors guide which spells out: the review process; subjects acceptable for articles;

subject unacceptable **for** articles; and

clearly explanation of the fee for payment of articles

All four motions were passed by the the affiliates and then by the board of directors. It remains to be seen if anything will happen as a result.

### 5.4 HAV Library

- Clarence Hardy said many of the tapes he has are obsolete and boring. He has 50 poorly identified tapes. A motion passed indicating he should use his judgement as to which tapes should be kept or dumped. Most of them have never been checked out. Of course they can't be checked out if nobody knows what we have.

### 5.5 HAV Social Event

Mike Frost suggested that HAV needed another social event. The group consensus was that the convention and seminar are sufficient.

### 5.6 2005 Convention

- Mike Frost and Lowell Fast are working on the convention.

- Mike raised the issue of the the convention location. The group discussed the issue but the consensus was that we are getting a good deal in Lynchburg.

- The group discussed the selection of a date for the convention. Lowell will try to get the Lynchburg facility for April 15-17, 2005. Else will try for weekend of April 23rd.

- Lowell has asked AWCI to help get Jerry Faier and Laurie Penman as principal speakers for the meeting.

### 5.7 Treasurer's Check Limit

Bill Trapp suggested that the maximum amount of check that the Treasurer can sign should be raised to at least \$800. It was pointed out that this was a Constitution/By Laws issue and needed to be addressed that way.

### 5.8 Board Members Staffing

Bill Trapp pointed out that we need people from other than the Potomac Guild to staff the Board of Directors. Need people from other guilds to step up to the bar and volunteer.

### 5.9 Email Voting

Lloyd Lehn suggested HAV should adopt the rules used by AWCI for email voting by the Board of Directors. Apparently this is based on some requirement by the state of Ohio. It was suggested that this is a Constitution/By Laws issue. Lloyd is to find out more about the specifics of AWCI procedures.

## 6 Announcements

- None

## 7 Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held at 1000 hours, 14 Nov 2004 in the - Holiday Inn Motel in Charlottesville.

## 8 Prepared By

- These minutes were prepared by:

Lloyd Lehn

Secretary HAV



## Horological Association of Virginia, Inc.

HAV contact Information:

President  
Mike Frost

First Vice President  
Lowell Fast

Second Vice President  
John Enloe

Treasurer  
Stan Palen

Secretary  
Lloyd Lehn, CC

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Reminder:

The Former AWI is now the AWCI. The Organization is still the same (American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute) but the acronym has been changed!

## Mark your calendar !

October 1-2, 2004 - NAWCC Mid-East Regional, Greensboro, NC  
October 3, 2004 - HAV Fall Seminar, Sandston, VA (Details in this issue)  
October 24, 2004 - HAM Fall Seminar, Baltimore, MD (Details in this issue)  
November 14, 2004 - HAV Board Meeting, Charlottesville, VA (Open to all members)  
June 8-12, 2005 - NAWCC 60th National Convention, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Answer to "Know Your Fellow HAV Members": Mr. Charles and Mrs. Geraldine Wilkerson of Forest, VA, Southside Guild, married 45 years.

## HAV Mission

The Horological Association of Virginia is dedicated to the advancement of the Art and Science of Horology. We will provide opportunities to our membership to advance their skills and knowledge. We will support our members by providing educational opportunities at our Conventions and Seminars. We will support our local guilds, wherever possible, in their efforts to advance the causes of the HAV.

The HAV was formed in October 1939 for the purpose of promoting cooperation among the horologists, principally watchmakers, throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and surrounding locales. In the ensuing years, HAV's spectrum has broadened to include clockmakers, bench jewelers, retail jewelers, collectors, and hobbyists associated with this precision industry. The scope of HAV has grown by expanding its offering of education to its members in the latest techniques, training in the use of advances in technology, and continued prompting of fair and ethical trade practices.

## In Memoriam

Courtesy of Ralph Smith:

We were saddened to learn that Annie Whitney, widow of Marvin Whitney who established the Fairfax County (VA) Adult Education Class on Pendulum Clock Repair, passed away peacefully Saturday afternoon (August 21, 2004) at the Mount Vernon Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. Her desires were to be cremated and her ashes scattered where those of Marvin's were deposited. No service was planned.

Thus ends a tie with one of our beloved former members, Marvin Whitney. Most of you in Northern Virginia probably recall that Annie allowed the Clock Repair Class, which Whit had established, to remain in custody of the tools and materials incident to teaching the course. As long as the course is taught and as long as one of the students remain, Marvin lives.



Horological Association Of Virginia  
Loupes and Tweezers October 2004 Newsletter  
c/o Bill Bugert, Editor  
1230 Red Rock Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927

To:

**First Class Mail**

**It's not too late to sign up for the HAV Fall Seminar!!  
October 3, 2004 in Sandston, VA  
See details inside this issue.**