



Loupes and Tweezers

The Official Newsletter of THE HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

Horological Association
of Virginia, Inc.

2006 Issue Number 4
Fall 2006

HAV's Fall Seminar a Success

On October 15, 2006, approximately 25 members of the Horological Association of Virginia gathered at the Hampton Inn in Mechanicsville, VA for a full day of horological events. Bob Stone organized an outstanding and impressive itinerary that included a lecture by David Gow, Conservator for the Willard House and Clock Museum in North Grafton, MA, a movie narrated by well-know HAV member, Tuck Tompkins, and a lecture by the HAV Secretary, Lloyd Lehn.

The morning session started with information on the Willard House and Clock Museum. Mr. Gow briefly discussed the homestead's history stating the Museum was on the original property of the Willard family. Four Willard brothers, Benjamin, Simon, Ephraim, and Aaron, were prominent clockmakers in the late 18th Century. This museum was started in 1971, is the largest of its kind in the world, and now houses a collection of 100 clocks (99 weight driven and one spring), most of which have painted dials (the remainder have brass dials). Following the museum overview, David Gow discussed clock conservation versus restoration tips, restoration tips, and general clock repair hints.

Tuck Tompkins introduced the afternoon session with a video jointly developed with Dick Arnold and Lowell Fast. This video discussed problems on repairing a Captain's watch, the past and future of watch repair techniques, and various watch components repairs. This video was well received.

Lloyd Lehn immediately proceeded into an excellent program where he provided step-by-step light cleaning and repair instructions of a one-day regula cuckoo clock with chalet music box movement. His slide show discussed details of the tools and other materials he uses as well as troubleshooting techniques.

Many thanks to all, including Bob Stone, David Gow, Tuck Tompkins, Dick Arnold, Lowell Fast, and Lloyd Lehn, who toiled to make this Seminar a success! The attendees are pictured below.

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Photo by George Evans



Photo by Bill Bugert

The President's Message By Lowell Fast

I want to thank our members who attended our Fall Seminar in Mechanicsburg, just east of Richmond. Chairman Bob Stone had moved it from the motels at RIC airport which have been deteriorating over the years. Access from I-295 was convenient and this visit allowed us to evaluate these facilities. Wireless internet is available in the meeting room and we may wish to make use of this utility next year. As our convention this spring focused on Swiss watch servicing, our Fall Seminar was aimed at Horological Timepiece Restoration and Conservation.

I, for one, learned many things about the Willard clockmakers that had confused me for years. I had mentally tried to figure out all of the different conflicting directions the family took. I now I realize there were three distinct generations evolving from cottage industry to the sophistication of a leading Boston manufacturing and import business. I will not miss their museum if I am ever in New England.

Tuck Tompkins presentation on the restoration of a Swiss Captain's pocket watch was informative and fascinating in how far Dick Arnold And Tuck have developed in their presentation techniques. I shudder to think how much money and time we wasted on expensive AWCI "educational" tapes. Lloyd Lehn and I served on the AWCI Video committee for over a year with absolutely no response from the Board in improving the attempt. Our HAV programs and presentations are broader and deeper to the general membership than anything AWCI offers.

Lloyd Lehn's presentation on his Cuckoo Clock Clinic was not just techniques but a complete tutorial for setting up a repair business on any timepieces, not just Cuckoos. His awareness of the need for good business practices and his ability for getting it across kept everyone in their seats for the tour of his business and techniques.

While we are enjoying our HAV activities, I urge everyone to be aware of the dire straits AWCI is in, and monitor AWI Matters to follow the situation. Serious considerations of the plight of this direction are being presented and surprising efforts to suppress anything that does not focus on the Swiss CW21 program are the result.

Increasing dues is seen as the only "cash cow" available and the 5 year old efforts at approaching the lack of budget planning has been in vain.

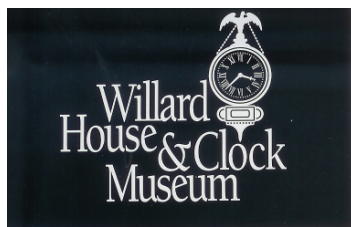
Finances are not the problem but just the symptom. In the last three years the approximate budget deficits have been: \$47,800, \$204,166 and estimates for 2006-7 are \$260,000, each exceeding estimates by 30% to 40%. My concern over raising our line of credit by the collateral on the building has not been eased as our interests expenses continue to rise.

Interest costs for the same three years were: \$22,215, \$46,217, and budgeted 2006-7 are \$50,000. Each of these is 40% to 50% over what was budgeted for interest. At this rate our annual interest expenses should approach \$100,000 in the next 5 years.

Makes me want to think about our Annual Convention in Lynchburg this coming Spring! I can see the dogwoods already.



DAVID GOW'S SEMINAR FOR THOSE WHO COULDN'T ATTEND



11 Willard Street
North Grafton, MA 01536
(508) 839-3500
www.willardhouse.org

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

(Editor's note: Here are my abbreviated notes from David Gow's presentation at the 2006 Fall Seminar.)

David Gow is the Willard Museum Conservator. An introduction to him and his museum is included on page 1 of this newsletter. Here are some of the main points he stressed during his lecture (reminder - he is a clock conservator!).

- It is very important to make sketches and details of the clock before you begin work. He typically spends 4 to 5 hours completing this. Examine each piece's condition

and identify previous repairs. Keep a log of repairs and keep old/replaced parts.

- Most Willard clock movements are not signed - the dials usually are. The Willard's often used others to make clock parts and cases. They used imported tall case movements. All parts were hand made.

- The banjo clock was patented by Simon Willard in 1802.
- Don't improve clocks (either restoration or conservation). Treat all clocks with respect and be conservative - less is better.

Restoration tips:

- If making a new part, keep the old one (put in a plastic bag and keep in a safe place) so the repair is reversible. Try to maintain originality. Mark the new part (e.g., "repl 10/2006").
- Buy up antique dies and taps - you will need them for rethreading screws and screw holes.
- Rebushing - check pivot holes with a depthing tool before rebushing.
- Pendulum bobs: make new ones to replace missing or damaged bobs. Gow makes wooden molten lead molds. He carves out the desired shape into mahogany, places thin brass on one side for a face and uses a cardboard funnel to pour the molten lead. Let cool for 2 hours and use wet/dry sandpaper to finish the brass face.
- Get painted dials refinished by professionals. Don't wait! The damage (peeling, etc.) will only get worse. Be careful and find a good painter.
- Brass dials: usually best to do nothing to them. Cleaning abrades the surfaces; resilvering is OK.



Photo by George Evans

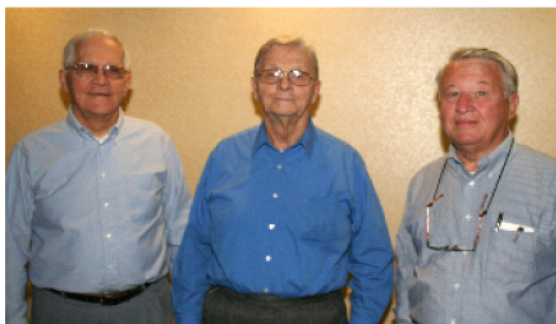
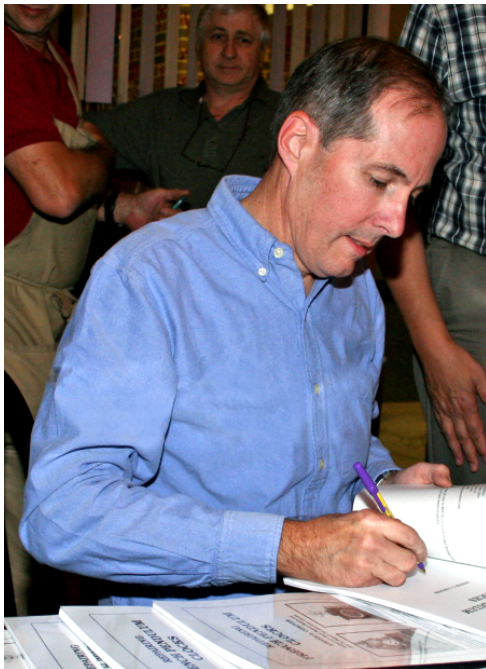


Photo by George Evans



Photo by George Evans

Fall Seminar instructors: David Gow, (Dick Arnold, Tuck Tompkins, Lowell Fast), and Lloyd Lehn



Steven Conover visits the George B. McNeil (Potomac) Guild

Noted horologist and prolific writer, Steven G. Conover, dined with and instructed the Potomac Guild during the regularly scheduled September 2006 meeting. His topic was "Dealing with Problem Clocks." He and his wife gave an instructive talk on four "problem" clocks which he sees coming in for repair. A question and answer session followed his talk and he had some of his books available for sale, which he autographed. They had a good turnout. Steve is the author of many clock repair books and authors a monthly clockmaker newsletter. His website address is on the internet at www.clockmakersnewsletter.com. The Potomac Guild has a very aggressive educational and social program conducted at the monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at the DaVinci's Family Restaurant, 6347 Columbia Pike (in the Barcroft Shopping Center), Falls Church, VA 22041. The public is invited.

Photo by George Evans



Photo by George Evans

John Enloe, HAV First Vice President, instructs the George McNeil's Potomac Guild on pivot polishing at the October 3, 2006 monthly meeting.

Westminster Chimes

- Frequency of chiming action: Each quarter hour
- Operation of the chiming mechanism:
 - Observe the hammers hitting the chime rods. If not in proper sequence, loosen the screws on the ratio wheel, turn the wheel until the hammers fall in correct sequence. Retighten the screws on the ratio wheel.
 - Sequence of operation (Hammers hitting the chime rods)
 - Quarter hour (Four notes) 1-2-3-4
 - Half hour (8 notes) 3-1-2-4, 3-2-1-3
 - Three quarter hour (12 notes) 1-3-2-4, 4-2-1-3, 1-2-3-4
 - On the hour (16 notes) 3-1-2-4, 3-2-1-3, 1-3-2-4, 4-2-1-3
 - Hour striking occurs after a slight pause after the 16 hourly notes.



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. 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. My columns will be posted there when I have completed them.

I recently turned on one of my computers that uses the free AVG anti-virus program and there was a notice that it would not be supported after January 15. The company is offering a relatively inexpensive, but comprehensive program that includes increased security, anti spyware and anti-malware. If you are using AVG, you will need to do something. The other free antivirus program is Avast. I use it also and so far it seems to be doing a good job.

One problem I have now is that the computer that has Avast installed on it has crashed fairly hard. If I turn it off and on several times, occasionally it will come up. It seems to work best if I bring it up in the safe mode. To get to the safe mode, you keep punching F8. There are several modes of safe – Normal and several modes with and without options such as networking. I don't back this one up as often as I should. I was able to get it to stay up long enough to pull off some files I wanted by allowing networking in the safe mode.

This second computer I use to maintain web sites. I connect to other computers for exchanging files for this and prefer to keep this activity on a separate computer to try to keep malicious programs from invading my main computer. This is an old machine that now comes up with either a blank screen, a multicolored screen, or the regular screen with a strange background. This can be caused by corroded connections. I will take out the memory, all the cards, clean the contacts with an eraser, and then reinstall these components. The hard drives seem to be okay, so if I need to, I can put these hard drives in another machine and pull the files I need off of them. I have a newer old computer that I may try to get going again to be my second machine. This one had hard drive problems so it may work with these drives. I will let you know next time how this works out.



Photo by Bill Bugert

Microsoft has struck again. They came out with Internet Explorer 7. Nice upgrade with some new features. They neglected to fix some of the known problems with the older versions. It has also caused a number of problems where it has been installed. For a lot of folks it was installed automatically if you have automatic updates turned on. It has a lot of default settings that are probably different from the way you had your earlier version set up. I know a number of folks that have spent quite a bit of time getting everything working again.

About January 30, Microsoft will release their new operating system, Vista. As with all the others this one is a great memory hog. It requires 15 Gig of hard drive space and at least 512 Meg of memory. It is recommended that you have 2 Gig of system memory. Do you need it? The short answer is no if your current system is working fine and does what you need it to do. Vista will be delivered with new machines after the above date.

Microsoft is offering express upgrades to Vista for machines purchased now. There are several versions of Vista. You can find out about them at Microsoft's web site. I suspect that Vista will run much better on one of the new dual processors made by either Intel or AMD. These are powerful machines that will play high end games nicely, but are not necessary for most small businesses or home use.

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.



Draft Minutes of the August 20, 2006 HAV Board of Directors Meeting

The HAV Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting at 1000-1300 hours on August 20, 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Charlottesville, VA.

1. Attendees: Lowell Fast, Stan Palen, Lloyd Lehn, John Enloe, Tuck Tompkins, Bob Stone, Bill Trapp, Bill Bugert, and George Evans.

2. Invocation: Provided by John Enloe.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Treasurer's Report: Stan provided a proposed budget for the year. Several amendments were offered based on more recent information. The modified budget was passed. Stan will update his version. He expressed concern about the rate of expenditures this past year. It was higher than in previous years and we will run out of money in five years at this out-flow rate. The loss for the convention and sending a delegate to the AWCI annual meeting were unusual costs this past year. The Board did not want to raise the cost of dues.

5. AWCI Annual Meeting: Lloyd Lehn provided a comprehensive report on the AWCI annual meeting. A copy of his written report was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. The Board had a lot of questions about the AWCI budget which Lloyd was unable to answer because he is unfamiliar with the low level details of the budget. He noted that about a third of the AWCI annual budget is for staff salaries and that none of the other line items includes the salary costs.

6. 2006 Convention: Bill Bugert submitted a written report (distributed on the Internet before the meeting). Financially, HAV lost roughly \$2,700 on the convention. This was caused primarily by the high cost of two high-end speakers and the one time reduction of the registration fee. Bottom line was that we can't afford to spend money at this rate in the future.

7. Fall Seminar: Bob Stone offered the following information:

- When - October 15, 2006

- Where - Hampton Inn, Mechanicsville VA - near exit of the intersection of I-295 & Route 360. The room rate is \$89 and the registration fee is \$50.

- Cost of Meeting Room - \$200 (including morning coffee). Afternoon snacks are extra.

- Morning Speakers - David Gow, Curator of the Willard House and Clock Museum, Boston. He will talk about restoring clocks. (His fee is \$450 plus transportation.)

- Afternoon Speaker - Ed Stone has tentatively agreed to speak on gilding but is uncertain because of other factors. Bob is looking for an alternative in case Ed is unable to attend. Someone suggested David Todd.

- Overall cost to put on the meeting about \$1,000.

- Let our NAWCC colleges know about the meeting since they might be interested in the clock restoration aspects.

- A resolution was passed to permit Bob to officially conduct business on behalf of the HAV.

8. 2007 Convention: Steve Leonard has been serving as the unofficial chairman. He is looking for a co-chairman to help. A resolution was passed to permit Steve to officially conduct business on behalf of the HAV.

- When - April 20-22, 2007

- Where - Ramada Inn - Lynchburg, VA

- Registration fee - \$98 for the full fee

- Room rate - TBD

- Reserved rooms - 40 - NOTE: There is a big state basketball meeting in Lynchburg that weekend so reserve rooms early.

- Speakers - none have been selected. George Evans suggested Dan Fenwick has worked well in the past. Mark Butterworth and Herman Mayer were also suggested.

9. Potomac Guild Clock Class: George Evans put in a plug for the Potomac Guild's clock class which will begin on September 11, 2006 and continue on Monday and Wednesday evening at the Senior Center in Fairfax, VA. Contact George if interested in additional details.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the same location at 1000 hours on November 19, 2006.



**Horological Association of
Virginia, Inc.**

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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.

Basic Steps in Soldering (adopted from L&T Issue 1/2, 1991)

Step 1. Good fit and proper clearance. Soldering works best when there are close tolerances between the soldered parts (ranging from .001" to .005" will produce good joints.

Step 2. Cleaning the materials. Remove all oil, grease, scale, and dirt. The surfaces must be clean.

Step 3. Flux the parts. Flux will prevent the formulation of oxides which can interfere with the bonding action.

Step 4. Assembly for soldering. The parts to be soldered must be held in proper alignment during the heating and cooling cycles. This can be done with gravity or a holding fixture.

Step 5. Soldering the assembly. Soldering can be done with either a torch, an induction coil, or a furnace.

Step 6. Cleaning the soldered joint. Most fluxes can be removed using hot water. A pickling solution can be used to remove any oxides that may have developed.

Mark your calendar !

November 19, 2006 - HAV Board of Directors meeting, Charlottesville, VA

April 20-22, 2007 - 2007 HAV Annual Convention, Ramada Inn, Lynchburg, VA

June 6-9, 2007 - NAWCC 2007 National Convention, Chattanooga, TN

August 2-5, 2007 - AWCI 2007 Annual Convention, Cincinnati, OH

August 7-10, 2008 - AWCI 2008 Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO

Wanted: New HAV Board of Director member. If you are interested in serving on the HAV Board, contact Bill Trapp at (703) 356-3962.



Horological Association Of Virginia
Loupes and Tweezers Fall 2006 Newsletter
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To:

First Class Mail

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**