



# Loupes and Tweezers

The Official Newsletter of THE HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

Horological Association  
of Virginia, Inc.

2006 Issue Number 3  
Summer 2006

## HAV gathers for Convention

On April 21-23, 2006, members of HAV gathered at the Ramada Inn in Lynchburg, VA for the Annual Convention. Attendance increased slightly from the 2005 Convention. The President's Reception on Friday evening successfully kicked off a full weekend of social occasions including the Saturday night banquet and auction, professional development sessions, HAV Annual Meeting, and cultural events for the Spouses. Attendance was up slightly from the 2005 Convention. Fifteen ladies and Wayne Simpson, the planner and overall tour guide, attended the Spouses Program to the Natural Bridge in Virginia. Robbie Harris assisted Wayne. Though a rainy Saturday, the program was enjoyed by all.

HAV was fortunate to have two outstanding Horologists. Tamara Houk and Bob Ockenden presented excellent technical programs. The Saturday watch session was led by Tamara Houk who presented the AWCI bench course of Modern Chronographs, ETA 7750/7751. This all-day session included an overview of this movement and hands-on step-by-step disassembly and reassembly.

Bob Ockenden presented the Sunday clock session with detailed discussions on common repair problems with fusee clock movements and business aspects and issues with running a clock repair business.

The banquet Saturday night was a memorable social event. Tuck Tompkins was awarded the President's award and Ronnie Spiggle was finally made an Honorary HAV Member. Wayne Simpson and Ronnie Spiggle conducted an outstanding Saturday night auction which netted profits for HAV. A great time was had by all!

### What's Inside this issue?

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Tuck Tompkins wins 2006 President's Award</i>	3
<i>Ronnie Spiggle is now officially one of us!</i>	3
<i>HAV Fall Seminar</i>	3
<i>Convention programs by Tamara Houk and Bob Ockenden</i>	4
<i>Spouses attend The VA Natural bridge</i>	4
<i>More notes from the HAV President</i>	4
<i>Komputer Korner</i>	5
<i>Minutes of the August 20, 2006 Board Meeting</i>	6
<i>Clock Repair Course</i>	7
<i>Mark Your Calendar</i>	7



Group photo for the 2006 Annual Convention

Photo by George Evans



## The President's Message By Lowell Fast

John Read, Chief, Litigation III, Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
325 7th Street NW, Room 300  
Washington, D.C.,

RE: [www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/f214800/214815.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/f214800/214815.htm)

Dear Mr. Read

**Note: Below is the letter I  
sent as President of HAV  
to the Dept. of Justice  
(copy To our Senators)**

The focus of this letter is the DOJ request for comments on the Consent Decree between the US Government and ROLEX and (the Swiss Cartel) on the above case.

As president of the Horological Association of Virginia, I have been requested by our membership to respond to the present issues. The Horological Association of Virginia represents American Craftsmen engaging in the repair and servicing of modern and vintage timepieces. We are very concerned that the DOJ is considering releasing the consent agreement. We request that the Justice Department reconsider the decision to set aside the good faith consent agreement entered into almost 50 years ago, and focus on two of the original issues as outlined below:

RE: On March 9, 1960, just prior to trial, the United States and 11 of the defendants, including Rolex, entered into a consent decree that attempted to resolve the complaint's antitrust concerns.

1. Under the decree, defendants were prohibited from placing certain restrictions on the use of watch parts purchased from the defendants.
2. The decree also prohibited the defendants from entering into certain agreements that fixed or controlled the terms or conditions on which watches, watch parts purchased from the defendants may be resold.

It is evident that the Swiss manufactures have not honored the relief offered them by the Justice Department almost 50 years ago. Although the American watch industry is no longer a factor, the Swiss DO hold control of the repairable watches upon which the American Watchmakers depend for their livelihoods. We respectfully request the Department further investigate the agreements that holders of repair parts must enter into that prevent them from sharing parts with others in the trade through resale.

It will be seen that Rolex has never attempted to comply with the intent of the original consent order. The Justice Department has focused on the Jewelry business at the expense of the independent crafts persons. The days of a jewelry store on every block and a watchmaker in every shop have changed drastically. In the present environment, most watchmakers are independent businesspersons dependant on a reliable source of parts and supplies for repairable timepieces.

Please start investigating the severe agreements craftsmen with parts, for 50 years have been required to sign, prohibiting them from sharing with others essential repair parts. These parts are not available from any other sources.

Under later 1996 counterfeiting provisions, ROLEX Policy Statement under "Trade marks and Goodwill," blatantly states: "Parts may not be used in any watch that has non-ROLEX parts or accessories (such as generic crystals, dials, bezels or bracelets)". Clarification of the original intents of the 1960s "agreement" will also establish realistic business practices for the aftermarket supply of cosmetic and accessory watch parts.

Please reconsider your intentions to allow the Swiss cartels to continue to restrict the availability of quality replacement parts necessary for US watchmakers to maintain the upscale repairable watches of the American consumer.

Respectfully,

Lowell Fast, President

Horological Association of Virginia

[lowell.fast@adelphia.net](mailto:lowell.fast@adelphia.net)

Cc. VA Senators John Warner and George Allen



### L. A. (Tuck) Tompkins wins 2006 HAV President's Award

Tuck Tompkins was awarded the 2006 HAV president's award at the HAV Annual Convention Banquet and Awards Ceremony in Lynchburg, VA on April 22, 2006. His level of commitment to excellence in the field of horology made him an outstanding choice for this award. Tuck's family made a surprise appearance at the ceremony which made him misty eyed with joy. Congratulations, Tuck, from all of us!



### Ronnie Spiggle is officially one of us!

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*Town of Appomattox*



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ROXANNE W. PAULETTE, CMC

April 24, 2006

Horological Association of Virginia  
Lowell Fast, President  
3200 Holly Avenue  
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Dear President Fast:

I was both flabbergasted and deeply honored that the HAV would consider making me an honorary member.

I have truly enjoyed the annual meetings and the friendships I have gained during this period of time.

Please convey to the entire membership my heartfelt gratitude for this great honor bestowed on me Saturday night, April 22 in Lynchburg. It is certainly a highlight of my career.

Again thank you and the association for this milestone of my life.

With warmest regards

Sincerely,

*Ronnie*

Ronald C. Spiggle  
Mayor and Honorary HAV Member

## HAV Fall Seminar

**When:** October 15, 2006. Registration is at 8:30 AM; the seminar begins at 9:00 AM.

**Where:** Hampton Inn, 7433 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA (I-295 / Route 360 Interchange).

**Fee:** \$45 in advance by September 29th to Bob Stone, P.O. Box 567, Fairfax, VA 22038.  
\$50 at the door on the day of the Seminar.

**Overnight reservations:** Rooms are blocked at the Hampton Inn until September 25th at the rate of \$89. Mention the reservation code "HAV." Phone (804) 559-0559.

**Speaker:** The main speaker is David Gow who is the curator of clocks for the Willard Clock museum in Grafton, MA. An additional speaker is now being coordinated.



Photo by George Evans

**Tamara Houk**

HAV was indeed fortunate to have Tamara Houk as the watchmaker Guest Speaker. Her credentials include President of Swiss Service Center - Chicago land area, AWCI Instructor, past Director of AWCI and past President of the Wisconsin Horological Society.

Tamara presented the Saturday watch session with the AWCI bench course of Modern Chronographs, ETA 7750/7751. This all-day session included an overview of this movement and hands-on step-by-step disassembly and reassembly. An excellent course booklet was provided for all to use as a standard reference. Clockmakers followed along with the watchmakers. AWCI course completion certificates were sent to all attendees.



Photo by George Evans

**Bob Ockenden**

Bob Ockenden's horological background includes AWCI CMC (the only one in Minnesota), member BHI, AWCI speaker, and AWCI committee member for Strategic Planning, HT, Certification, and now the Board of Examiners. He also owns and operates his own clock repair business in Minneapolis.

Bob's Sunday session included very detailed information on fusee clock movements. He provided an excellent handout and instruction on history, repair, disassembly, and common problems of chain and cable fusee movements. His second session was on clock business issues such as warranty, selling your skills, dealing with customers, repair price, and repeat business. His instruction was enjoyed by all.



Photo by George Evans

### HAV Spouses visit The Natural Bridge

Thanks to the efforts of Wayne Simpson and Robbie Harris, the attending spouses enjoyed a Saturday visit to the Virginia Natural Bridge. This memorable and rainy event was a breathtaking experience of the famous rock bridge which was purchased by Thomas Jefferson for all visitors to enjoy. A lunch stop was included as well as a quick visit to the Wax Museum and Factory. Thanks, Wayne, for planning and conducting this trip!

### More notes from the HAV President

Keep posted on the AWI matters site. The AWCI membership has elected another Director who is focused on Board accountability and open business practices for how AWCI proceeds in the future. After he was elected, efforts were made to force him to shut down his watch parts business as "conflict of Interest". I understand this was voted on in Executive Board session and the Effort has failed.

Our August HAV board realized we made a wise investment to send Lloyd Lehn to the Convention in Seattle. His report gave us a rare examination of what goes on at these meetings although it raised more questions than answers on direction of AWCI. At my request, Lloyd has agreed to post the report to his website @

[http://www.cuckooocklockhospital.com/060825\\_AWCI\\_Report/](http://www.cuckooocklockhospital.com/060825_AWCI_Report/)

This will save on L&T postage expenses and allow us to evaluate the priorities and direction of the AWCI board. Our only influence is through the future election of Directors as the affiliate system of representatives is so diluted as be almost worthless.

At the time the AWCI's financial back is against the wall, there is a budgeted effort of almost 1/4 of a million dollars to start a new certification program for clockmakers and watch counterpersons. Where are the requirements, demand, proponent or payback for these efforts? If you think your thoughts deserve answers to these types of questions, then keep your AWCI Board members apprised of you wishes for the direction of your organization. Their email addresses are printed in issues of the HT.

Lowell Fast, President, HAV



## 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.

I tried to get dual monitors working on the machine I use for editing my web page, but the video card I had would not work in my old machine. Plan B would be to get a second video card that will work in a standard card slot. I do not need a fast card as I am just editing text. Plan C would be a new video card that will go in the video card slot in my old computer that will handle two monitors. They keep getting cheaper all the time. It is low on my priority list of things to spend time and money on.

TigerDirect had a special on a DVD Read/Write drive that will handle all formats as well as the new double layer DVDs that hold over 9 Gb of data. It was only \$29. I could not resist it at that price. I have it installed and so far every thing checks out fine. I backed up my whole machine on two double layer DVD disks.

McAfee is the Virus/Firewall program that I use. They came out with an update in February that was actually a required security fix. I use automatic updates as do most individuals. This means that I am protected, but some companies do not do updates until they are thoroughly checked out and verified. The security problem could allow outsiders to take control of the host machine. If you use McAfee, make sure you have all the updates.

Windows has come out with an update called Windows Genuine Advantage. This is one you probably do not want. From what I understand, it is Microsoft's spyware about what you have on your machine. It verifies if your software is legitimate, but it sometimes gets mixed up. It especially does not like reinstalls of



Photo by Bill Bugert

your software after a hard drive failure or something similar. If it determines that your software is not okay, you are in a heap of trouble. This one is almost impossible to uninstall. There are several methods that can be found on the Internet to try to uninstall. Most of them do not work and may make it worse.

I have not allowed this one to install. I only have automatic notifications turned on and I review each one before it gets installed. I subscribe to a Windows Secrets Newsletter ([www.windowssecrets.com](http://www.windowssecrets.com)) the does a great job of reviewing Windows Updates as well as a lot of other stuff.

Does your surge protector power strip have indicator lights? Most of the cheap ones do not and are only good for one spike in your electric power. After that you are vulnerable. You should have one that indicates it is still protecting you. Most of those that do that have green lights that turn red when your protection is gone. I use TrippLite surge protector power strips. They cost about \$50, but they also will replace equipment that gets damaged due to a power surge that their protector was unable to stop. It is relatively cheap protection.

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. Stan 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 outflow rate. The loss of 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.

The Board thanked Bill and Steve Leonard for an outstanding job on this year's convention.

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

- When - October 15, 2006
- Where - Hampton Inn, Mechanicsville VA - near exit of 295 & 360. - Room Rate - \$89

- Registration fee - \$50

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

- Morning Speakers - David Gow - Curator of the Willard Museum, Boston. He will talk about restoring clocks. Fee - \$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 colleagues 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 - Registration fee - \$98.

- Room rate - ?

- 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 10 AM on November 19, 2006.

Submitted by: Lloyd Lehn, CC, Secretary, HAV



**Horological Association of  
Virginia, Inc.**

*HAV contact Information:*

President  
Lowell Fast

First Vice President  
John Enloe

Second Vice President  
Steve Leonard

Treasurer  
Stan Palen

Secretary  
Lloyd Lehn, CC

Active Past President  
Bill Trapp

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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.

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## **Clock Repair Course offered in Fairfax, VA**

George Evans and John Enloe, in coordination with the leadership of the George McNeil's Potomac Guild, our sponsors, have finalized the schedule and fees for the next session of the clock repair course. The first day of class will be September 11, 2006. The class will be conducted on Monday and Wednesday of each week from 7 to 10 PM for 15 weeks at the City of Fairfax Senior Center located in the former Green Acres Elementary School located at 4401 Sideburn Ave, City of Fairfax. The schedule has a two week break for the Christmas and New Year holidays and to finish on January 10, 2007. In the past, their policy was somewhat liberal to allow participation on both days of the week whether you registered for Monday or Wednesday. They have decided to eliminate the two separate classes. You may now register for the one class, 15 weeks, two days a week (30 days). The fee for the class will be \$140 tuition and \$10 for supplies for a total of \$150. To register, contact George at (703) 978-6154 or John at (703) 425-1524.

## **Mark your calendar !**

October 15, 2006 - HAV Fall Seminar, Details in this issue of the Loupes and Tweezers

Fall 2006 - Next issue of the Loupes and Tweezers

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

**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 Summer 2006 Newsletter  
c/o Bill Bugert, Editor  
1230 Red Rock Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927

To:

**First Class Mail**

**HAV 2006 Fall Seminar**  
**October 15, 2006**  
**Mechanicsville, Virginia**  
**Complete Details on page 3!**