

June 2012



Loupes and Tweezers

Newsletter of the HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

President's Message



Dear HAV Members,

We just had another awesome convention last April, in Staunton. **Dean Sarnelle** put a lot of work into it which really showed. **Irene Sarnelle** coordinated this year's spousal program on the history of and around Staunton.

Steve Petrucelli gave a talk on identifying and collecting American Banjo clocks on Saturday morning while **Gary Biscelli** spoke on the Swiss lever escapement using the Rolex 1570 movement. In the afternoon **David Lindow** demonstrated engine turning techniques on the Rose Engine Lathe. There was novice to master watchmakers/clockmakers in attendance in these classes, all of which took valuable information from them which could be applied to their business. Our next educational opportunity will be the **Fall Seminar** (see below). There aren't very many details to report at this time but I have been told it will be one you won't want to miss. So leave some time in your busy schedules to attend and support the work being accomplished for the membership.

I did want to point out to the membership the fact that our conventions are continuing to grow in attendance, mainly due to the fact that members have volunteered to be a part of the **Convention Committee** and/or the **Board of Directors**. The members of the HAV are what make this organization great! Members who will volunteer their time to help other members and it really doesn't take that much time. What's stopping you from volunteering to help continue to keep our organization growing?

Mike D. Creasey, HAV President

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FALL SEMINAR PLANNING UNDERWAY

Seminar Coordinator, **Steve Leonard**, tell us that the seminar will be on 4 November 2012. As always, the search for quality/available speakers, and a location is a challenging task. **Lowell Fast, Tuck Tompkins and Mike Creasey** are working with Steve to solidify the rest of the who, what, when, & where equation. Stay tuned.

**Thanks and a Tip of the Hat
to
Dean and Irene Sarnelle**



It takes a great deal of effort to coordinate all of the activities necessary to run a great annual convention. While many others pitched in and did their part, the primary challenge is faced by those at the site who have to take care of all of the hundreds of details the rest of us take for granted. Dean and Irene rose to the task. From an attendees point of view, the convention ran like a well oiled machine. The smiles on all those faces indicate how much we appreciate it.

Thanks for all your efforts.



Clock Class



Spouses' Group

Faces At The Convention



Faces At The Convention



Memories From the Spouses' Program



HAV AND GUILD DUES DUE

The HAV Treasurer, has just sent HAV members email notices to pay their annual dues by June 25th to save billing postage and effort.

There are three parts of the dues equation:

HAV
Spouse
Guild

The annual prices are:

HAV - \$35
HAV Spouse - \$5
Guilds -
At-large - \$0
Potomac - \$20
Tri-City - \$10
South Side - \$0

The only part of this which DOES NOT go to Stan Palen is the Tri-City dues. That goes to Bob Bruckhart. All of the rest of the dues and the answers to the two questions below should be sent to:

Stan Palen
8283 Oakwood Drive
King George VA 22485

Stan is also the collection point for answers to the following questions. Please provide the answers when you send in your dues:

How do you want L&T delivered?
email (default)
snail mail

Do you want an HAV membership certificate for this coming year?
No (default)
Yes



STAN PALEN'S Komputer Korner

This column includes hints, helps, suggestions and news for IBM compatible computers.

WINDOWS 8

Windows 8 is evolving and is available for folks that want to try it. From now until January 2013, if you buy a new PC with Windows 7, you can purchase an upgrade to Windows 8 for \$14.99. Most companies will probably include it. An earlier beta test version of Windows 8 had a path to restore a start menu similar to the one in Windows 7. The latest version does not.



This is what the Windows 8 start menu will look like. Microsoft calls this interface Metro. It is really set up to be used on a touch screen, but your mouse will work just as well. A lot of folks do not like change that forces them to learn to navigate in new ways. Many of the publications I read think this may be another Vista fiasco. (It did not work well). Windows 8 will also come with a new Internet Explorer 10. Microsoft is claiming increased security for both. I have several PC's but I am not ready to install Windows 8 on any of them to play with just yet.

HOT SPOTS

Several folks I know have purchased a Verizon or AT&T hot spot. They live in rural areas with no cable or wireless broadband capabilities. They do have a good cell signal. I helped a neighbor hook up his to

Stan's Korner Kontinued

an older computer desktop with no wireless capability. The USB cable that powers the unit took care of that. Instead of hooking the hot spot to the AC wall adapter, it is attached to a USB port on the computer. Now he has a wireless network in his house with no additional hardware. For use almost anywhere, the hot-spot can be disconnected and taken with you. With this device, you could get rid of your other home phone by using something like Skype or Magic Jack. The AT&T one has a 5 gigabyte limit per month. I am sure Verizon has similar limits. The cost for this unit is about \$50 a month, but unless you are a heavy Internet user, it is all you need.

BLACKBERRY

Do you have a Blackberry? You may have a problem. Research In Motion (RIM) appears to be heading for bankruptcy. Other than support from your provider, support for your phone may get difficult.

THE CLOUD

Do you store your files in the cloud? You should be careful of the ones not connected to a well known company. Gym Journal, Google Health, Ta-da List have disappeared. Quite a few offer about 5 gigabytes for free and charge for more storage. I am using Pogoplug that does things a little bit differently. I have 5 gigabytes of storage on their computers, but I also have a hard drive on my network that is connected to their servers for anything over my storage. I had to purchase the interface that hooks to my external hard drive to my network by cable. I do not care for the way they do it though because they compress most things I access through their web site. If I try to read a spreadsheet, it is too small and if I expand the sheet it is too fuzzy to read. Pictures seem to work fine.

PHOTO PROCESSING

Microsoft Research has some interesting photo manipulation programs on their website. Microsoft Image Composite Editor is an advanced panoramic image stitcher. <http://research.micro->

[soft.com/en-us/um/redmond/groups/livm/ice/](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/redmond/groups/livm/ice/) If you take several overlapping pictures of a panoramic view from a single location, the program creates a high resolution panorama that seamlessly combines your pictures. If there are enough pictures, your resulting panorama can be uploaded to their Photosynth web site and a 3D picture can be created.

<http://photosynth.net/create.aspx> Another photo possibility is to take pictures around an item, upload them to Photosynth and then create an image that can be viewed from several angles. Photosynth uses both software downloaded to your machine and a web interface. You may need to establish a windows live or Hotmail ID if you don't have one.

Another cute one is take a frame of a video with something like a waterfall or candles and use the video part to make only the waterfall or candles move with a repeating clip. The link to the software is: <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/redmond/projects/cliptlets/tutorials.aspx>

The link to UTube examples is: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQyZ5qshfB0&feature=results_main&playnext=1&list=PL5B1A70CA126083C0

REPAIR TRACKING SOFTWARE

I am working a presentation on business software for the Chronometer Club. A program that I found quite interesting is Repair Tracker 2000. It handles incoming jobs, attaches pictures if you want to the file and follows the job throughout your shop. It can email the customer with updates or questions. You can also get job approval by email. More information is available at repairtracker2000.com. There was a presentation by the company at the HAV convention in April. This one has a free two week trial period. The program costs \$195 with a \$20 monthly fee. The program is web based so that upgrades will be free.

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