

MENOMONEE VALLEY TIMES®



Volume IX Issue IV

MENOMONEE VALLEY CHAPTER 47 WISCONSIN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC

NOVEMBER 2011

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 13, 9:00 AM

**November Program
'Turkish Timepieces'
by Danno Osterud**

**Show & Tell—Bring a
Turkish timepiece to share**

Menomonee Valley Chapter 47

January 15, 2012

March 11, 2012

May 6, 2012

September 9, 2012

November 4, 2012

Madison Chapter 171

First Wednesday of even
number months

Chicagoland Chapter 3

February 5, 2012

April 15, 2012

September 9, 2012

November 11, 2012

December 2, 2012

Chapter 47 Officers and Directors

- ▶ President: Craig White
- ▶ Vice Pres.: Jim Mirek
- ▶ Secretary: Ed Buc
- ▶ Treasurer: Dan Osterud
- ▶ Past Pres.: Mike Dempsey
- ▶ Director: Harry Schulz
- ▶ Director: Larry Jacobi
- ▶ Director: Bill Galinski

Committees

- ▶ Librarian: Ray Fanchamps
- ▶ C47 Midwest Regional:
Representative Craig White
- ▶ Web Master: Jim Mirek

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thank you, Ray Fanchamps, for your presentation on skeleton clocks during the September meeting. A special thanks goes out to all members who brought in their own skeleton clocks to add to the presentation and discussion.

The educational talk this month will be 'Turkish Timepieces'. Please bring any examples you may have in your collection to share and discuss with others.

Recent instances of legal claims made at regionals and suitcase classes have forced us to consider the need for insurance coverage for the chapter. Join us for a discussion session after the November educational program to discuss the need and amount of coverage we may want. The national has coordinated insurance coverage that is available for purchase by chapters.

The board has decided the Chapter dues will be reduced from \$25 to \$20/year. This is being done to keep dues as low as possible while remaining fiscally sound. Dues can be paid at the November meeting.

Future educational talks planned are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| January | Atmos Clocks, by Mike Dempsey |
| March | Third Annual Chapter 47 Auction |
| May | The Evolution of Brass Production for Horology, by Craig White |
| September | Early Battery Clocks, by Ray Fanchamps |
| November | Accutron Watches, by Mike Dempsey |

Thank you,
Craig White

Spot a Clock—Last month's clock can be found in the Humanities Room of the Milwaukee Public Library. The attached write-up provides a summary of information on the clock. Can you guess where the clock below is located? The answer will be posted at the November meeting, by the coffee.



In Memoriam...

Fellow member Gilbert 'Gil' Fauls passed away in October. He was 69. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Treasurer's Report

August 1, 2011

Opening Balance \$2,423.72

Income:

Dues and Admissions \$194.00

Donations \$ 2.00

Total Income \$196.00

Expenses:

Coffee and Donuts (\$80.99)

Newsletter (\$61.43)

Total Expenses (\$142.42)

Sept. 30, 2011 Closing Balance \$2,477.30

It's time to pay your 2012 dues, so break out your checkbook and send in a check! Dues have been reduced to \$20 for 2012.

Dan Osterud, Treasurer

Photos from September 2011 Chapter 47 Meeting and Mart



The September education program was on Skeleton Clocks, by Ray Fanchamps



Plenty of clocks on the Mart tables!



Our members, enjoying coffee and donuts during the September Mart

Chapter 47 September Newsletter “Spot a Clock”

This clock is located in the Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room, on the second floor of the main branch of the Milwaukee Public Library. The clock is a three-weight, nine-tube tall case clock. The clock was a gift to the library. There is a small brass plate on the case with the inscription “In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. Schwartzburg”.

The movement is not visible, and the library does not have information on the clockmaker. The brass dial is engraved “Alsted Kasten Co., Milwaukee”, likely the jeweler from which the clock was purchased. The library staff allowed opening of the waist door for a closer inspection of the weights, tubes and pendulum. The tubes provided a clue to the maker, as they were stamped “Walter H. Durfee & Co. Providence, RI”

Several articles have been published about Mr. Durfee in the Bulletin, including one by Owen and Jo Burt (V23, 215, p556). Mr. Durfee was initially an architect, but switched to the antiques business. He traveled extensively looking for high-quality English and American antiques. During a trip to England, he and an acquaintance decided to form a clock business, which became Durfee and Enches. The business purchased high-end bracket clocks from Jennens and Sons, Inc. in London, and sold them with a Durfee and Enches mark in Durfee’s antique shop. In 1884, his partner lost his fortune gambling. Durfee continued to sell clocks on his own. He commissioned Jennens and Sons to produce a two weight tall-case clock to Durfee’s design. At this time, clock sales in America were dominated by cheap shelf clocks. Durfee’s high-quality tall case clocks became an instant success among wealthier Americans, revitalizing this style.

During another trip to England in 1886, Durfee met J. Harrington, who had just developed and patented a method for manufacturing high-quality chime tubes. Durfee purchased the rights to be the sole agent for these tubes in America. The Elliot Clock Company was commissioned to produce a movement that could utilize the Harrington chime tubes. Durfee sold his first chiming tall case clock in 1887 for \$500.

Production expanded in the 1890’s, with tall case clocks produced with either a five-tube or nine-tube movement. By 1897, Durfee had sold over 1,000 chiming clocks. In 1902, another clockmaker began to manufacture clocks that had tubes manufactured outside of the Harrington patent. Durfee sued and lost, losing his exclusive rights to chime tubes.

By 1905, Frank Herschede had designed a chime tube, as did Waltham Clock Company several years later. As competition increased, prices and quality began to decline. Durfee, however, insisted that his clocks continue to be manufactured to the highest standards of quality.



If you like to suggest a clock for the newsletter’s ‘Spot a Clock’, please contact Ed Buc at the Chapter meetings or by email at timecraft_wi@yahoo.com.

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MENOMONEE VALLEY CHAPTER 47

DESCRIPTION	Time	Price	2012
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 47 Membership Dues	1 Year	\$20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Card prepaid entry to meetings	1 Year	\$10.00	OR \$3 at door
<input type="checkbox"/> NAWCC Membership Dues <i>Use NAWCC Form-send to NAWCC</i>	1 Year	\$70.00*	Or \$90 with spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Mart Table at Chapter meeting	1 Mart	\$ 0	*FREE to Members
<input type="checkbox"/>			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ad in MENOMONEE VALLEY TIMES	Annually	\$100.00+	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Chapter 47	1	\$	
*Make checks payable to NAWCC CHAPTER 47			Total: _____

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