



# Loupes and Tweezers

The Official Newsletter of THE HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

Horological Association  
of Virginia, Inc.

2004 Issue Number 3  
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## Current Board Members Lead HAV for Another Year !

In conjunction with the 2004 Horological Association of Virginia Annual Convention in Lynchburg, Virginia, on April 18, 2004, the current board members were sworn for another term of office.

### HAV officers include:

**President - Mike Frost**

**1st Vice President - Lowell Fast**

**2nd Vice President - John Enloe**

**Treasurer - Stan Palen**

**Secretary - Lloyd Lehn**

**Immediate Past President - Bill Trapp.**



Photo by Bill Bueger

Left to Right: Mike Frost, Lowell Fast, John Enloe, Lloyd Lehn, and Stan Palen. Bill Trapp was not in the photo.

As all these positions are volunteers, the membership thanks you for your desire and dedication to serve the greater good of Virginian horology.

## Ralph Smith wins 2004 President's award !

By John Enloe

Ralph Smith was honored with a surprise presentation of the HAV 2004 President's Award. He was nominated by John Enloe whose nomination sheet with Ralph's numerous horological contributions is extracted here.

Ralph Smith has been an active and involved member of the American Watchmakers and Clockmakers Institute (AWCI), the Horological Association of Virginia (HAV) and the George McNeil Potomac Guild for many years. Ralph is an accomplished clockmaker and has given freely of his time to further the knowledge and expertise of his fellow horologist, both at the state and local levels. Ralph planned and organized the HAV fall seminars in 1999, 2000, and 2003 – all outstanding events that were well attended and greatly appreciated by the membership. He is presently serving as a Director on the HAV Board, a position he has held for several years, where he actively represents the George McNeil Potomac Guild.

Ralph is an avid horologist, engaged in teaching and providing hands-on clock repair. He is also very involved in sharing his knowledge and experience in clock repair. After Mr. Marvin Whitney died, Ralph was one of the students who stepped in and taught the clock repair course for Fairfax County Adult and Community Education, a part of Fairfax County Public

Schools. This course was started by Marvin Whitney and continues to be one of the most popular courses offered by the Adult Education Program. Ralph not only demonstrated a high standard of clock repair in his work, but he taught all the students to take pride in their work and perform to his high standard.

Ralph is also a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) and is active in all Guild activities. Besides planning and organizing the HAV seminars, he is a regular attendee and strongly supports all the HAV Conventions as well as its Board meetings. In addition to his horological activities, Ralph is very involved in the Masonic lodge where he leads many outstanding community events. He does all this while running a successful clock repair business. In short, if you need something done, Ralph is the guy to go to!

Ralph retired from the United States Navy in the grade of Captain after 30 years of honorable service to his country. He is married to Dottie Smith, who is a HAV spousal member.

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Photo by Bill Bueger

Mike Frost, HAV President, presents Ralph Smith with the 2004 HAV President's Award



Photo by Bill Beger

## The President's Message

By Mike Frost

participation and if you want to call it begging, so be it. We are a small organization and getting smaller each year. Sad fact of life, but its true. Every time there is an activity or task that needs volunteers, the same few people get asked every time. As volunteers, all of us have limited time and energy. While some new blood shows up once in a while, it is not enough.

### The following help is needed:

We have need of an individual to assist me with the HAV Convention next year. The job is not terrible, but it does involve a commitment and follow-thru. Yes, you may be asked to head up the convention the following year, but knowing what

is involved makes it much less daunting, and maybe someone will come along to help you.

We could use someone to help with the Fall Seminar. Ralph Smith has done a fine job but I am sure he would appreciate some help. Again, maybe towards heading up the seminar committee the following year.

We need ideas. What do you want to see at the convention and seminar? Types of speakers, subjects, etc. This surely doesn't take much effort, does it? It would help us in planning for these events, so give us some feedback.

Finally, we could use some ideas as to how to attract a few new members. Maybe we could just use you to suggest to a prospective member that they should check us out through the Guilds.

Ok, that's over. Just keep in mind that we are all volunteers and those of us who do participate really do try to keep your best interests in mind. It helps, though, to know what those best interests are. So if you would like to become a member of a very elite club, contact any of the HAV Board members or your local Guild officers and volunteer for something.

Thank you from all of us.

*Editor's Note:* By popular demand, Mike's photo has been updated to include a new image.

*Mike's Message:* Occasionally, we all have to beg for something. Whether it is forgiveness, a second chance, or indulgence, we all do it at one time or another. Well, the President now has to beg, not for any of the above, but for something else.

I write today asking for par-



Photo by Bill Beger

## Hermann Mayer instructs HAV members

Hermann Mayer, born in Wurzburg, Germany, completed the watchmaking program at the Goldschmiede mit Uhrmacherschule, Pforzheim and received awards from the school as well as from the city of Pforzheim. He practiced and instructed at the Beverly Hills, CA branch of Rolex for three years while also completing the WOSTEP training in Neuchatel, Switzerland and

specialized Rolex training in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2001, he has been involved with the Rolex facilities in Lititz, PA where is the Principal of the school and chief instructor.

Hermann walked the audience through the disassembly and assembly instructions for the Quartz Chronograph Movement (ETA 251.262). He is a dynamic speaker. His

instruction was attended by watchmakers and clockmakers and was enjoyed by all. Many clockmakers laudably praised his work, enjoyed his presentation, and gained an appreciation for the watchmakers' trade.

HAV wishes to thank Hermann for his gratis presentation. He willingly gave up his weekend to instruct the HAV membership.

## HAV 2004 President's Award Recipient Expresses His Gratitude

In Appreciation

The Horological Association of Virginia has deeply honored this apprentice by their recognition in presenting to me the President's Award for 2004. I feel that I have taken far more than I have given.

The knowledge and assistance that you have shared is beyond belief. I have and will continue to attempt to pass this on through the

light of horological education.

To be recognized by one's peers is the highest honor a person can receive and I am deeply humbled to have been selected for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Smith, Jr.

George McNeil Potomac Guild



Photo by Bill Beger



## Laurie Penman again instructs the HAV membership !



Photo by Bill Bugert

World Renown Clockmaker, Laurie Penman, at the 2004 HAV Annual Convention in Lynchburg

For the second year in a row, Laurie Penman, a world renowned Clockmaker, honored HAV with his presence at its annual convention. A trained Mechanical Engineer who served in the Royal Air Force, he started clockmaking after a series of machine and mechanical engineering jobs. The author of many fine clockmaking references, he now resides in the U.S. and is the clock instructor for the AWCI. He also currently writes a column for *Clocks* magazine.

Laurie spent an entire morning examining clock escapements. Hints, design secrets, and repair and adjustment techniques were explained in detail. An excellent handout was distributed to aid all

in classroom and at-home work.

Laurie's afternoon session topics included discussion on barrels, short-cuts hints for the workshop, questions and answers from the audience on specific topics or problems, clock mainsprings, wooden movements' bushings, and balance wheel pivot screws.

For all, the time was well spent and seemed to pass too quickly. His clockmaking knowledge is vast and the audience tapped as much as they could before the next speaker.

HAV thanks Laurie and his wife for sharing his time us, not only at the formal class but during the casual gatherings.

## History of the Wreck of the Old 97

At the HAV Annual Convention, noted author and historian, Captain G. Howard Gregory, gave a outstanding presentation of one of his favorite topics and books, *The History of the Wreck of the Old 97*.

On September 27, 1903, the railroad wreck that inspired the popular ballad "The Wreck of the Old 97" occurred in southern VA, near Danville. The southbound mail express train on the southern railroad left the tracks on the trestle and plunged into a ravine. Eleven

persons were killed and seven were injured. This is considered to be one of Virginia's worst train wrecks.

Captain Gregory, a native of Lynchburg, is currently a Captain and Field Division Commander in the Virginia State Police. He served as an extra agent telegrapher for the Southern Railway from 1962-1965.

Although this presentation was primarily targeted for the HAV spouses, it was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to him for this wonderful and interesting history lesson.



Photo by Bill Bugert

## Know Your Fellow HAV Members

As a new item starting in this issue, 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.

To what well known and famous HAV member does this facial feature belong?



Hint: He's of the male gender and in the George McNeil Potomac Guild.



Photo by Bill Bugert



## 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.

In my last column I was discussing my problems with the video card in my new Dell computer. The problem has not gotten any better, but I have not had a chance to dig into it deeper. It is on my do list.

For those of you that have been putting off getting firewall protection and virus protection, you have run out of time. There are a bunch of new viruses that can infect your machine just by being connected to the Internet for a few minutes without protection. The firewall in windows XP is turned off by default. You must turn it on. There is a major upgrade coming out for XP that will change the default. There is also a new virus that infects servers that host web sites that you might visit that will try to infect your machine when you look at unprotected web sites. You cannot tell from your end which ones are which and a few big name web sites have had problems.

The first step is to make sure you have the latest security updates. There are numerous security updates for whatever version of windows you are using. They should be installed. A few of them have caused problems with some folks programs that need their own updates to work. The way I handle this it to look at the windows discussion groups for a week or so after an upgrade comes out to see if there are problems before I install the upgrade. I have Windows set up to notify me when updates are available.

The second step is to install a virus program. There are some free ones. I use McAfee and some folks use Norton. They should be set to automatically check for updates every time you connect.

The third step is to install a firewall. A free one is Zone Alarm. I use McAfee's firewall. I also have BlackIce on another machine. Again these need to be set to automatically check for and install upgrades.



Photo by Bill Berger

I recently installed the privacy service from McAfee. I was amazed at the number of problems it found and the number of cookies that try to get installed on my machine. There are cookies that attempt to install from reading my email (this was a new one to me). The privacy service tells me who is trying to install a cookie and gives me the choice of accepting it or not. Most cookies are not a problem. Some need to be accepted for a site to work with you. Online buying often requires them. Ad Aware program blockers and spy program killers are relatively necessary programs if you are going to be on line these days. Most of these are free so far.

The above protections will cost between \$50 and \$100 and come with a year's updates. It will cost about the same to renew your protection for another year. Online there are usually introductory offers.

Would you like to get off the Microsoft band wagon? There is a free operating system at [www.debian.com](http://www.debian.com). The operating system uses Linux as it's base. There are 8710 different packages or programs that you can download or get on a disk for a few dollars. A large group of folks are working to expand the selections and their capabilities. Available programs include word processors, spreadsheets, web browsers, and email programs. One of our HAV members uses this system. If you do experiment with it, you should set your system up as a dual boot so you can start your computer in either one until you are comfortable with the new system.

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](mailto: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](mailto:jlbishop2@juno.com)



# Draft Minutes of the April 18, 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 at the Ramada Inn in Lynchburg, VA at 8 AM on April 18, 2004. This event was scheduled as part of the HAV Annual Convention. All convention members were invited to attend.

## 1. Attendees.

President - Mike Frost

First Vice President - Lowell Fast

Second Vice President - John Enloe

Secretary - Lloyd Lehn

Treasurer - Stan Palen

L&T Editor - Bill Bugert

Directors/Alt - George McNeil's Potomac - Ralph Smith, Dick Riegel, Bob Stone, and Steve Leonard

Directors - Southside - Wayne Simpson

Directors - Tri-City - Tuck Tompkins and Charlie Soukup

Guests - HAV Convention Attendees

2. **Invocation** provided by Ralph Smith.

3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the February 22, 2004 HAV Board meeting were distributed and approved.

## 4. Treasurer's report .

- HAV currently has \$17,730.16.

- Stan Palen believes he has down of MASHI and all bills are paid.

## 5. Other Business.

### 5.1 Fall Seminar.

Coordinator: Ralph Smith

Date: October 3, 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.

### 5.2 MAHSI.

- See treasurer's report.

### 5.3 Guilds.

- The Secretary said he had received only one report from the Guilds so far.

### 5.4 AWCI Annual Meeting Representative.

- President Mike Frost announced that the board would pay up to \$800 each for Lloyd Lehn and Clarence Hardy to attend the AWCI annual meeting as HAV representatives. Mark Pelham asked why two individuals were necessary. After some discussion, there was no change to the plans.

### 5.5 AWCI Communications.

- The Secretary announced that HAV had again received a certificate that HAV is an affiliate of AWCI. He displayed the certificate.

- Lowell Fast wondered what had happened to the letter he proposed be sent to AWCI before their last board meeting concerning the watches spare parts issue. There was apparently some confusion over who was supposed to send the letter and its readiness to be sent. Nothing was sent.

### 5.6 HAV Library.

- Clarence Hardy was not present to provide the report on the status of the Library inventory and list.

### 5.7 2004 President's Award.

- Ralph Smith thanked the group for awarding him the President's Award the night before the banquet.

## 6 Announcements - None.

## 7 Election of Officers

- The Immediate Past President, Bill Trapp, announced that the current slate of officers has agreed to serve again.

- The slate was elected by acclamation and were immediately sworn in. They are:

President - Mike Frost

First Vice President - Lowell Fast

Second Vice President - John Enloe

Secretary - Lloyd Lehn

Treasurer - Stan Palen

- Bill Bugert agreed to continue as the Loupes and Tweezers Editor.

## 8 Next Meeting.

- The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Motel in Charlottesville, VA.

## 9 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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## 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 Memorium

**None this Issue - Thank goodness!**

### Did You Know:

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 !

July 14, 2004 - Registration deadline for the AWCI's 44th Annual Meeting  
August 5-8, 2004 - AWCI's 44th Annual Meeting, South Portland, Maine  
August 15, 2004 - HAV Board Meeting, Charlottesville, VA  
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)

The previously promised "A Bit of History of the HAV" by John D. Miller, CMW/CMC, will be included in the next issue of the L&T.



Horological Association Of Virginia  
Loupes and Tweezers July 2004 Newsletter  
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To:

**First Class Mail**