



Loupes and Tweezers

Newsletter of the HOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

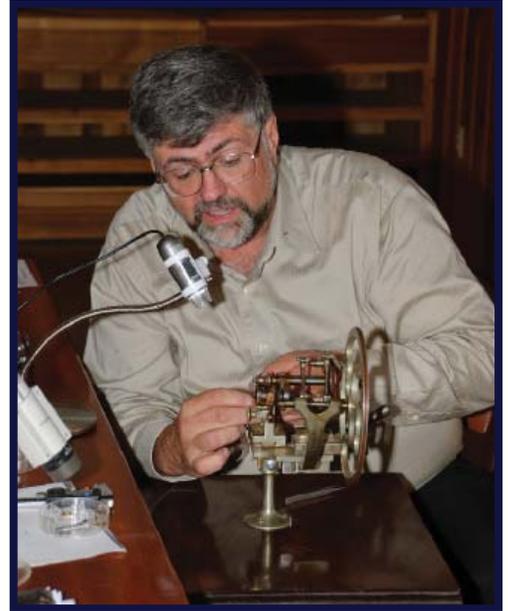
December 2009 Issue

Jim Michaels Headlines HAV Fall Seminar

On 18 October 2009, the Horological Association of Virginia (HAV) held its annual fall technical seminar at the Ivy Creek Nature Foundation located about five miles north of Charlottesville VA. The featured speaker was Jim Michaels the head of the NAWCC school in Columbia, PA. HAV members Lowell Fast and Tuck Tompkins also presented a DVD on escapements.

Jim Michaels' main presentation led the group through the steps necessary to create a new watch gear to replace a missing gear. He described the process necessary to calculate the size of the gear, the number of teeth required and the width of the teeth. He had prepared a gear blank of the appropriate size before the presentation using a slitting saw i.e. it had rectangular teeth. Not to worry. Jim brought along his rounding-up or topping tool. This tool is used to prepare the proper curved shape on the tip of the gear teeth so it really becomes a clock gear. Many of the attendees had never seen a topping tool so it was very interesting to both the clock and watch members. During the demonstration, the group gathered around the tool. Several members were given the opportunity to actually top out the gear. Jim also brought his video microscope which has a USB connection and was plugged into his laptop. The details seen on the screen made one want

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THE HAV CONVENTION IS COMING!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for next **April 30 and May 1&2**. That's when HAV will hold its annual convention at the Williamsburg Marriott. A full program with a clock and watch speakers and a spouses' program is being planned. Nominations for the President's Award are due in February. We hope Ronnie will again be with us to help auction off our unneeded horological items after we enjoy the food at our annual banquet.

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Seminar (cont)

to buy one.

Additional information on rounding-up or topping tools can be found on <http://www.horo-logical.co.uk/topcon.html>

Lowell and Tuck showed the attendees their video on lever escapements. They have continued to improve their videography techniques. Many of their scenes were close-ups of escapements.

Everyone enjoyed the seminar and looks forward to the next one.



The President's Message by Steve Leonard



As another year draws to a close, our HAV Board of Directors has had a busy couple of months.

STAFFING: The vacancy for 2nd Vice President has been filled. Erik Funk (Potomac Guild) agreed to be nominated. The Board unanimously elected him at the November 22, 2009, board meeting. Please congratulate Erik and thank him when you see him at various guild and HAV events.

FALL SEMINAR: We had another outstanding Fall Seminar in October. Many thanks to Bob Stone, Potomac Guild, for again organizing the event. Jim Michaels from NAWCC was the featured speaker. (See front page story) While Jim's focus was mainly on watch parts, his program also had lessons for clock repair. It was enjoyed by all.

Tuck Tompkins and Lowell Fast, (Tri-City Guild) also pitched in to make the program a success. They showed us the first installment of their new video series on escapements. This well done program focused on lever escapements. We look forward to seeing the remaining installments.

2010 CONVENTION: Progress is underway for the 2010 annual convention. Thanks goes to John Enloe for once again working on many convention details. John has lined up Dan Fenwick (Swatch) for our watch program speaker, and Al Dodson (NAWCC school) will present the clock program.

PRESIDENTS AWARD NOMINATIONS: As we prepare for the next convention, it is time to consider candidates for the President's Award. This award is presented to a deserving individual for contributions to the HAV and horology in general. Please forward your guild's nominations to John Enloe. The HAV Board of Directors will select the awardee at the February 2010 Board meeting.

Have a happy and safe holiday season! I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Steve

Photo Credits: Seminar - Steve Leonard; Picnic - George Evans.

1st Vice-President's Message
by
Mike Creasey



of its membership, at a minimum.

Will/can HAV survive? Financially, the organization is strong. It has the funds to be able to provide the educational benefits our members require/desire in order to be kept informed of current industry changes.

Our weakness is the number of member volunteers. Too few people are doing all the work. If this

continues, unfortunately it may reduce our ability to provide educational opportunities, because there were no member volunteers available to work the jobs which needed to be done. If only one or two of the key current volunteers leave for whatever reason, HAV is in trouble.

We need to reactivate and staff the Convention Committee. The Chairman's responsibility would include providing mentorship/guidance in implementing the annual HAV Convention. The Vice Chairman would chair the Program Committee. Volunteers are needed for Vice Chairman and Second Vice Chairman. Written guidelines are available to assist with their responsibilities. By volunteering, a member can direct the focus of the convention by choosing speakers from any Horology field.

In closing, I appeal to the membership, please volunteer to help run our great organization. Join the active members who are willing to work together, to work with others, in an effort to provide learning opportunities for the membership. Specifically, we currently need a Convention Chairman, Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman. We also need an HAV Secretary. Any of the HAV Board of Directors are more than willing to give you any information you may need to accomplish your task.

Most importantly, we need you to *volunteer*.

Dear Members,
Every year HAV host's its Annual Convention in a Virginia city. These gatherings create excellent educational opportunities for HAV members. We have been very fortunate to be able to learn directly from knowledgeable horologists like: Dan Fenwick (watches); Hermann Meyer (watches); Tamara Houk (watches); Mark Butterworth (clocks); Rick Balzer (clocks); David Todd (clocks); Robert Porter (watches, & a vrecent book on gear cutting); and Bob Ockenden (clocks).

The valuable information and tips presented at these conventions would not have been possible without the pool of volunteers who make the convention happen.

HAV is a volunteer organization. If HAV is to continue, we need "VOLUNTEERS". Are you doing your part? Are you volunteering?

Here's a current example of the shortage of volunteers.

Several years ago, we had a Convention Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Second Vice Chairman. These were not just the words in the Bylaws but real horologists/jewelers, people who did what needed to be done. This pool of volunteers put on the convention.

However, in recent years the sitting President of the Board of Directors has been gracious enough to pull double duties and Chair the convention.

At present, less than 10 percent of the members of HAV actually run the organization. Our members need to volunteer for more of the necessary jobs. HAV has over 80 members. One would think we should be able to muster four more volunteers. This would bring our number up to 12, which would be 15%. Most volunteer organizations are run by 15 to 20 percent

2010 HAV CONVENTION IN A NUTSHELL

Coordinator: John Enloe
Dates: 30 April and 1&2 May 2010
Location: Williamsburg Marriott
Agenda: Similar to the past two years:
Fri night: gathering and registration
Sat: technical speakers, spouses program, banquet, and auction
Sat Watches Speaker: Dan Fenwick - Swatch
Sat Clock Speakers: Al Dodson - NAWCC School
Spouses Program: Gayle Graves said she would work on again.
Sat Evening: Banquet and Auction:

Presidents Award: Guilds should send recommendations for the award to John Enloe as Past President or be brought to the Board meeting in February
Auction: Wayne will ask Ronnie to be our auctioneer again.
Sunday: Board meeting and speakers
Sun Speakers: To be determined
Board Meeting: Sunday morning. Certificate requirements to be discussed. .

Potomac Guild Annual Picnic



Each Fall, the Potomac Guild holds its annual picnic. The past several years, Donny and Gail Sobel have graciously allowed us to hold the picnic at their home. I think you can see that fun was had by all - including the pet swan.





STAN'S KOMPUTER KORNER
by
STAN PALEN

This column includes computer information for IBM compatible computers in the form of hints, helps, suggestions and news. Please submit any questions to Stan Palen, 8283 Oakwood Drive, King George, VA 22485 or via email to spalen@crosslink.net. Stan also has a web page located at www.stanpalen.com My phone number is 540 775-7027.

WINDOWS 7: Windows 7 has been released and is shipping with new computers. Some suppliers are offering a copy of Windows 7 for \$49 or less for a second machine. www.cnet.com has a number of reviews. Just put wwindows 7 in the search block at the top of the page. There is a link to Microsoft's Windows 7 page there too. Microsoft's page lists some of Window's 7 new features. These include quick file retrieval, file comparisons, easy sharing, better security and easy window sharing.

The question is do you need it? I do not recommend updating just to get some of the new things. If your current system is doing what you need to do, you do not need it. If your computer is having problems, an upgrade will not solve the problems. If you are buying a new computer, do not hesitate to get the new Windows.

Upgrading from Vista to Windows 7 seems to be fairly problem free from the Internet chatter that I have seen. I have installed it on a Vista machine and it went fairly well except it would not connect to the Internet. I did a send error report and it sent me to an article about the problem. I had to unplug my modem, my router and reboot the machine. Then I plugged everything in and it worked. Upgrading from XP to Windows 7 requires that you completely uninstall **everything**, do a clean install of your original Windows XP. Then you do the upgrade to Windows 7. Then you have to reinstall all your programs. I hope you have all your original installation disks for **all** your programs as well as the product keys etc. Then some of your peripherals may not have the proper drivers to work. Windows 7 does have an XP mode, so there may be a work around those problems. The same disk that will upgrade from Vista to Windows 7 will do the XP to Windows 7.

If you do decide to upgrade, do not pay retail. On the cnet web site is a discussion of the best place to buy it depending on your situation. One is, if you have more than one computer, the best deal is Windows 7 Home Premium Family Pack. It has licenses for 3 computers in the same home (or possibly business). The list price for this is \$149, but it can be found at discount. This is the one I bought, but I had a hard time finding it. Everywhere I went, it had sold out. Apparently this is a limited time offer. I gave up and bought it direct from Microsoft. Another is if you are taking almost any college course, the student discount is very deep.

VIRUS: The free anti virus program that I use is AVG. If you are using it, you should upgrade. This time finding the free version on the upgrade page is fairly obvious. The last time, it was very hard

to find. The latest version is 9. If you are using version 8.5, the virus data base will not be updated after December 1.

PASSWORDS: How safe are your passwords? Are you using family names or pet names? Do you use the same password in several places? All of these are not very good ideas. Passwords like this can be guessed in a few minutes. There are even programs to generate guesses. I strongly recommend that you start changing your passwords. They should be at least 8 characters long and contain upper and lower case letters and a couple of numbers. You should then be careful to record your new passwords.

CONNECTION SPEED: My Internet connection has been slow lately. Originally I was a beta tester for the cable company. They did my connection as the first in my county and were teaching their installers etc. So for a while I was not paying for the highest speed available. Sometime recently I was cut back and the difference was very noticeable. I went to speedtest.net to check my speed. From my main computer to the internet and back was half of the rated speed. I called the company and they walked me through some more tests. The tests revealed that my router was the problem. I have 3 hard wired connections and 3 wireless ones. I did a speed test using my laptop on a wireless connection and it connected at the rated speed. My router is fairly old and needs to be replaced so my main computer will work at least at rated speed. I really do not want to spend another \$10 a month to get the higher speed. The router is a one time cost.

NEWSPAPERS ON LINE: My local newspaper, The Free Lance Star (Fredericksburg), has an electronic version now. I can read the whole paper on line page by page. It is handy when I am away from home and want to keep up. It is free with a subscription to the hard copy. You can also buy just the electronic version. The whole page is displayed and you can easily zoom in to the areas you want to read. I find it much easier to read using a mouse instead of a touch pad. With the touch pad you have to hold down the left click while moving your finger to move the text so you can read it.

I-PHONES: I suppose you have been hearing a lot about Apple's iphone. One serious drawback is that you have to be on ATT's network that has spotty service across the country. Many folks have been complaining about the dropped calls and failure to complete calls. There is a new phone that just came out from Verizon called the Droid. Cnet has been running comparison tests. The Droid is a little heavier and slightly bulkier. It has a new operating system Android 2.0. Android is an open system that will allow more capabilities to be added by third parties. This new phone appears that it will be an Apple killer. Apple has a closed system and all applications must be approved by apple before it can be used (purchased). There are a lot of applications and mobile devices that are on the drawing board for this new operating system. One person who uses all of the data, Internet, texting and calling features on the iphone figured that the different pricing on Verizon would save him \$660 a year in monthly charges. I suspect that the Droid will also be available on some of the other carriers as well.

(Please note that this column is often submitted for publication 30 to 60 days before publication.)

Draft
Minutes of HAV Board Meeting
November 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Steve Leonard at 1005.
Wayne Simpson provided the invocation.

- Reports -
President

Steve Leonard thanks Bob Stone for coordination/running the fall seminar. It was a very good event enjoyed by all.

Secretary-Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting was approved subject to the amendment proposed by Stan Palen which removed some redundant text.

Treasurer's Report

Stan Palen reported that HAV has about \$15,600 funds available. His report was approved.

- Continuing Business -
2009 Fall Seminar

Bob Stone reported:

Attendees: 14

Finances: HAV made less than \$20

Speakers: Jim Michales - NAWCC

Speakers: Lowell Fast and Tuck Tompkins - Tri-City Guild

Additional Action: A motion passed to refund the registration fee to Lowell and Tuck for presenting their DVD. Stan will send them a check. This will mean HAV loses a little money on the conference - covered by our dues.

2010 Convention Plans

John Enloe is coordinating the Convention for 2010.

Dates: 30 April and 1&2 May 2010

Location: Williamsburg Marriott

Macro Agenda: Similar to the past two years:

Fri night: gathering and registration

Sat: technical speakers, spouses program, banquet, and auction

Sunday: Board meeting and speakers

Sat Watches Speaker: Dan Fenwick - Swatch

Sat Clock Speakers: Al Dodson - NAWCC School

Sun Speakers: To be determined

Speakers Schedule: Charlie Soukup said the Tri-City Guild requested watches on Sat and clocks on Sunday or visa versa. John Enloe pointed out the organizational and speaker problems with that. The agenda will be as John presented it.

Board Meeting: Sunday morning. Certificate requirements to be discussed.

Presidents Award: Guilds should send recommendations for the award to John Enloe as Past President or be brought to the Board meeting in February.

Spouses Program: Gayle Graves said she would work on again.

Auction: Wayne will ask Ronnie to be our auctioneer again.

2010 Fall Seminar

Bob Stone said he would start the process but that there was a good chance he would not be here in Oct to run it. Little has been done since we just had the 2009 seminar. Suggestions for speakers are more than welcome.

Date: Oct 17 target date with Oct 24 as a backup.
There was some concern over a lack of hotel rooms but all the board members seemed to agree that in spite of the problem it all went well and that we could live with it again.

Charlie Soukup said he would try to find someone in the Tri-City Guild to take over the seminar.

HAV Officers Job Descriptions

Stan Palen provided a draft of the job description of the treasurer which contrasted the By-Laws definition with what he actually does.

Lloyd Lehn provided his secretarial job activities at the previous Board meeting.

Job descriptions are needed for the other officers.

The group should then be consolidated in some standard format.

Secretary - L&T Candidates

Steve Leonard addressed the subject of vacant offices. He said he has made some headway and Erik Funk had agreed to take on the 2nd VP job. He pointed out Erik says he might move to Texas in the next few years. The Board approved Erik for the job by acclimation.

Lloyd has filled the secretary's job but is also taken on the publication part of the Loupes and Tweezers job. We need a new L&T editor or a new secretary.

Certificates Plan

The Board briefly reviewed the plan for issuing HAV member certificates. The Board plans to issue HAV certificates only if the member indicates he want a certificate when he pays his dues. The issue will be voted on at the Convention's Board meeting.

Library

Someone asked what had happened to the HAV library. Stan pointed out that Chick Hardy is the custodian of the library. The collection's items are listed on the HAV web page - www.HAVhome.org.

- New Business -

Coffee and Donuts for Board Meetings: Charlie noted that Steve had purchased donuts and coffee for the Board meeting. Charlie suggested that HAV pay for the coffee. Stan pointed out that the President has a small discretionary fund that can be used for that purpose. Steve will submit a bill to Stan.

- Announcements -

Wayne Simpson said Spidel was back in business. Wayne reported at the last meeting that they had shut down. He was delighted that they continued in business.

- Board Meeting Plans -

February: 21st or 28th depending on availability of Ivy Creek facility

May: 2nd - Sunday morning at the convention.

August: target 22nd

November: target 21st.

- Adjourn -

The meeting adjourned at 1110.

HAV WEB PAGE CONTEST

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAV'S WEB PAGE?

www.havhome.org

PURPOSE: The purpose of this contest is to test HAV members knowledge about the content of HAV's web page: www.havhome.org.

OBJECTIVE: Answer ten questions correctly from the content of www.havhome.org.

PRIZE: Lloyd Lehn will donate a \$40 copy of his DVD "Cuckoo Clock Repair: An Example" to the contest winner.

WINNER SELECTION: The prize winner will be selected at random from those entries with the most correct answers. If five members get all 10 answers correct, one of them will be selected at random to receive the DVD. The answers and winners name will be announced in the next Loupes and Tweezers.

ELIGIBILITY: HAV members who have paid their current dues as verified by the HAV Treasurer's membership spreadsheet.

ANSWERS: All of the answers can be found on www.havhome.org.

WHAT/WHEN TO SUBMIT: Submit the correct answers to the questions listed below to Lloyd Lehn by midnight Dec. 24. Use email or snail mail. Answers must be received by Lloyd's Dec. 24th USPS mail delivery. Send answers to: lloyd.lehn@verizon.net or 3723 Ivydale Drive, Annandale VA 22003. Don't forget to put you name on the answer sheet.

ANSWER FORMAT: Answers should be formatted with each line starting with the number of the question and followed by a one word answer e.g. 1. Tom

QUESTIONS: (one word answers only)

1. South Side Guild meets in what VA town? Hint: the President knows the answer.
- 2.. Ivy Creek Foundation's is on what street? Hint: How did you get to the seminar?
3. First name of the Tri-City Treasurer?
4. First name of the President's Award winner in 2008?
5. First name of the guy wearing a flashlight on his head at the Potomac Guild May 2007 meeting?
6. How long (minutes) is the Atmos Clock Repair Video in HAV's library?
7. ZIP code of the address where new members mail their membership applications?
8. The current HAV Constitution was adopted in 1998. What month?
9. Minimum number of years an individual must be an active member of HAV in order to be considered for the award of "Life Membership" of HAV.
10. First name of the HAV member who was awarded AWCI's Lifetime Achievement Award in August 2004?

DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ANSWER SHEET.

WE STILL NEED HELP!

We still have a vacant slot in the HAV organization:

- Loupes and Tweezers Editor or Secretary

HAV is run by volunteers. It is organizationally dangerous to have too few people doing all the work. If one or more of them suddenly is unable to do their job(s), HAV could be in a world of hurt. It could simply become completely inactive. Each of you needs to think about stepping up to the bar and helping your fellow members run this organization.

WE STILL NEED HELP!

Horological Association of Virginia
c/o Lloyd Lehn
3723 Ivydale Drive
Annandale VA 22003
703-256-2684

TO

FIRST CLASS MAIL