

*Do you love clocks and watches as much as we do?
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NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Greetings!

October was a wonderful month at the NAWCC. There was great activity across our campus in Columbia, PA, and further afield with the annual symposium in Chicago, IL.

The School of Horology is buzzing, and it was great to step out of the office and co-teach a workshop on wristwatch servicing with our instructor, Marc Clodfelter. The School continues to grow and offer a broader selection of workshops. Following a successful enameling course, we look forward to repeating the experience with greater emphasis on watch dial manufacture. Also in development is the woodshop, where we are preparing the way for workshops on case repairs and restoration.

We filled the Museum with spooks and ghouls for our second *Pumpkins and Pendulums* (more below). We also welcomed academics and artists from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, who were interested in the sounds of the 18th century. This was a great opportunity to show a selection of musical clocks in the collection, listen to their tunes, and discuss the technological features of the clockwork mechanisms.

A serendipitous discovery in the Museum's collection enticed Greg Gorton, an expert in American perpetual calendar clocks, to visit and examine a curious 8-day brass movement. It features a gloriously complex calendar mechanism and is one of many orphaned clock and watch movements from the James Arthur Collection. Greg will be taking over the Museum Spotlight column in our January/February *Bulletin* to discuss this mechanism and its importance.

This year's Ward Francillon Symposium was a wonderful experience that included a visit to see Mark Frank's extraordinary clock collection, the Adler Planetarium, the Halim Time and Glass Museum, the Elgin Museum, and the Sanfilippo collection. We were in great company and thoroughly enjoyed our

time together in Chicago. Thanks to all on the committee who put so much time in to make this such an informative and enjoyable event.

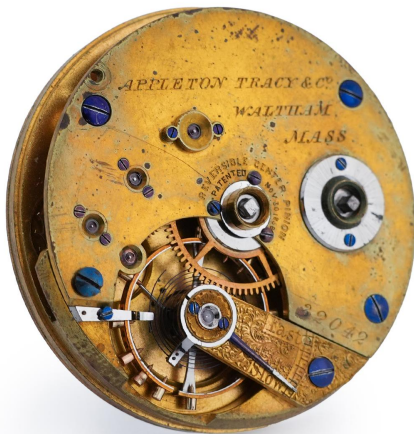


I am delighted to report that our community of watch and clock enthusiasts grew this month with over 50 new members. To all of the newcomers, welcome aboard! And a big thanks to all of you who continue to be a part of this unique community.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director

This Month in Horological History *with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist*

November 30, 1858



On this day, David B. Fitts received US patent No. 22174 for a safety pinion. The idea behind the safety pinion was to protect the watch and the user from a broken mainspring. Before safety pinions, if a watch mainspring broke, the stored force was rapidly released into the gear train, leading to damage throughout the train and possibly harming the user who was winding the watch.

Fitts's safety pinion functions much like the winding ratchet and pawl of a clock. He stated in his application that should the mainspring break while under tension, the ratchet will allow the main wheel or other gear wheel to rotate independently of the wheel it is attached to. The independent motion of the mainspring barrel and main wheel allows the energy to be released without damaging the rest of the watch train.

Above: "Reversible Center Pinion Patented Nov 30, 1858" is engraved on this Appleton Tracy & Co. watch. Museum catalog no. 81.98.26.



National Association of **WATCH&CLOCK** Collectors, Inc.

Securing the future of the NAWCC is made possible through the generosity of people like you—individuals who share a passion for horology and a commitment to preserving the history and artistry of timekeeping for future generations.

We invite you to support this year's *Partners in Time* fundraising appeal. Your gift will directly support the Museum, the School of Horology, and the Library & Research Center.

Click the button below to see this year's NAWCC "Wish List" that highlights some of our most urgent needs. Perhaps there is something on the list that you would like to support. No matter the amount, every gift helps ensure that the Museum continues to grow, the School continues to teach, and the Library continues to share its rich resources. Thank you!

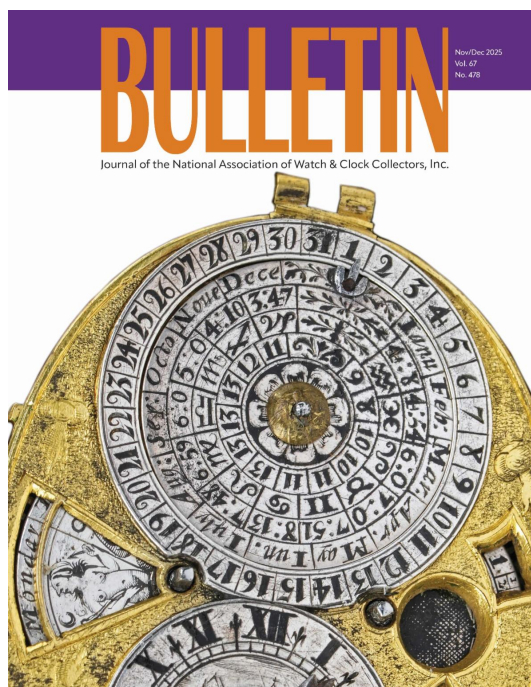
2025 Partners in Time

Bulletin Buzz

Reap the harvest of NAWCC membership as you read the **[November/December issue of the Watch & Clock Bulletin!](#)**

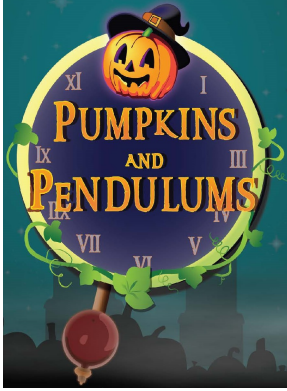
Published six times a year, the peer-reviewed journal presents horological research as well as technical articles and human-interest stories. Join or renew today to enjoy your subscription.

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A Spooktacular Event

Kids and adults alike enjoyed the annual Pumpkins and Pendulums fundraising event at the **[National Watch & Clock Museum](#)** on October 25.



Guests happily haunted the game and craft stations, gobbled up treats, shivered during spooky storytelling, and above all supported the Museum's mission of sharing the stories of time and timekeeping.



Time to Learn

[Register online](#) for an NAWCC workshop:

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

*November 7-9, 2025: Foundational Repair Skills I **Filled!***

November 21-23, 2025: Foundational Repair Skills II

December 6, 2025: Craft-a-Clock

Traveling Workshops

March 5-7, 2026: F102—The French-Style Clock Movement (Shalimar, FL)





Rory McEvoy and Marc Clodfelter led a beginner's workshop on wristwatch servicing on October 17-18 at the School. Participants familiarized themselves with the tools, discovered how a watch movement functions, and learned basic servicing procedures. Each student disassembled, cleaned, reassembled, lubricated, and adjusted timing on a manual wind movement.



Homeschool Day at the Museum

On October 14, the Museum welcomed 125 area homeschoolers, parents, and leaders to a day of horological learning. NAWCC members Lee Davis (below, left) and Drew Zimmerman (below, right) led hands-on stations, giving kids a special opportunity to discover the craftsmanship of watches and clocks. Guests used loupes to see watch parts up close, and they decorated a clock with stenciling. Staffer Thomas Stocker led presentations explaining how pendulums are used in timekeeping. Stay tuned for our next Homeschool Day!



It's Time for Fleece!

Warm and cozy fleece pullovers and zip-ups are in stock and ready for wearing and gifting. Featuring the Museum logo, these jackets and hooded sweatshirts will be your winter wardrobe staple.

Check out the variety of gifts, clothing, puzzles, books, and more at shop.nawcc.org or visit the Museum Store in Columbia, PA. NAWCC members receive a 10% discount!

*Each purchase supports our mission to preserve
and promote the craft of timekeeping.*



Each month, you will receive more updates and the inside scoop on the latest events, exhibits, classes, and more.

Warm regards,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

Help us share the story of time with everyone.

Click to Donate Today

NAWCC | 717-684-8261 | www.nawcc.org



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