

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

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NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Greetings!

It has been another busy month here at Watch and Clock central. Continuing our quest to improve this incredible facility, we were supported by another fantastic team of volunteers. With their help, we made room in the Museum's basement for more structured management of incoming donations and to preserve the bulkier items in the Museum's collection—namely, old machines from the Hamilton factory. Most importantly, we cleared 720 sq. ft. of space at the School that is rapidly being developed as a woodworking shop.

Plans for the maker space at the School of Horology will enable us to provide a fabulous set of workspaces for anyone interested in clockmaking and its allied arts. As with the installation of Quincy, this project has taken on a life of its own and volunteers have stepped up, bringing their passion, expertise, and energy to make it happen. Please look for updates in this newsletter and the *Bulletin* to see how you can be a part of this project.

September also saw the second convening of Lancaster Watch Weekend, which was a huge success. The grand finale was a watch fair held at the Museum that drew nearly 500 visitors who enjoyed seeing a wide variety of new horological pieces and chatting with the watchmakers and brand reps. Along with the watch fair, we ran two taster sessions at the School of Horology, giving collectors a chance to assemble a watch train. Sixteen people got to experience the joy and relief of seeing the balance wheel come to life at the end of the process.

With the support of our elected officials in securing state grant funding, we are now planning to complete the HVAC system upgrades in early spring of 2027. This couldn't come at a better time, as next year will be the Museum's 50th anniversary. Expect a host of celebrations and events around the [2027 National Convention](#) to mark this milestone in NAWCC history.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director

America's 250th: Celebrating Horology

We're celebrating the 250th anniversary of America by highlighting uniquely American pieces in the Museum's collection. Timepieces made in this country are beautiful,

innovative, or whimsical, and always a reflection of the craftsmanship and entrepreneurship fostered by a spirit of independence.

"Over the course of 50 years of clock collecting, shelf clocks with decorative dials and painted tablets, especially those known as Salem Bridge clocks, have been a principal interest of mine. None captures my attention more than this rare Salem Bridge clock by Bishop & Bradley now part of the Museum's collection. It has an 8-day brass movement with a Boston dial housed in a mahogany case with decorated pilasters, carved feet, and a splat featuring a pair of winged griffins. But the showstopper is the superb reverse-painted tablet celebrating Lafayette's 1824-25 return to the United States to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the American Revolution. Exceedingly rare, historic, and finely designed and crafted, clocks like this are always worth your time." —George Goolsby, NAWCC Fellow and member since 1978



Wound Up in Columbia

The [National Watch & Clock Museum](#) hosted a watch fair on September 27, the culmination of this year's Lancaster Watch Weekend. The fair featured several brands: Bell & Ross, Czapek, E. F. Bowman Watches by RGM, Grand Seiko, RGM Watch Co. (guilloché [engine-turning] demo), Jean Rousseau Straps, Seiko, J. N. Shapiro, Towson Watch Co., Vortic Watch Co., and Weiss Watch Co. Visitors to the event were many and enthusiastic, with nearly 500 people attending. Museum admissions and store sales were brisk, making for an all-around fantastic day.





Along with the watch fair in the Museum, the School of Horology held two packed introductory sessions on assembling a mechanical watch movement. School instructor Marc Clodfelter and guest instructor Roland Murphy, founder of RGM Watch Co., led the workshops.

Celebrating the Best of Horological Craftsmanship



2027 NAWCC Crafts Competition

June 10-13 • York, PA

Call for entries!

- New and Restored Clocks and Watches, Decorative Art in Timekeeping, Innovations in Timekeeping
- No entry fee



- Top three winners in each category will be featured in the *Watch & Clock Bulletin*
- Registration forms are due by May 31, 2027.

[Click Here for Details](#)

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

October 6, 1848

On this day, Webster Clay Ball was born on a farm in Fredericktown, Ohio, to Aaron and Sidney Ann Clay Ball. He began his jewelry apprenticeship in 1869 in his hometown and later joined the Deuber Watch Case Company in 1874.

The year 1879 was a busy one for Webb Ball. He married Florence Young and also bought interest in a jewelry firm that was to become Webb C. Ball Co. in 1881. After the adoption of Standard Time in 1883, Ball was the first jeweler to use time signals from the US Naval Observatory to accurately time the watches and clocks in his Cleveland jewelry store. The Kipton disaster in 1891 brought Ball to the forefront of railroad timekeeping. The head-on collision was only 40 miles from Cleveland and was caused by a faulty watch used by one of the conductors. Ball was appointed Chief Time Inspector and tasked with investigating this disaster.

The new timekeeping standard Ball sought to institute on the railroad meant the creation of new regulations, the hiring and training of watch inspectors, and the distribution of all new timekeepers. The rules Ball instituted made railroad travel much safer and were adopted by watchmaking companies such as Hamilton, Waltham, and Elgin. Webb Ball died at age 73 in 1922 and left a legacy of time standards and safer railroads.



A 16-size, 23-jewel, Grade 999 watch from Hamilton Watch Co., ca. 1913. The dial is marked "Official RR Standard. Ball Watch Co. Cleveland." Museum catalog no. 81.98.4.



(left to right) NAWCC Librarian & Archivist Thomas Stocker, Executive Director Rory McEvoy, and Senator James Malone pose with an impressively large check.

HVAC Progress

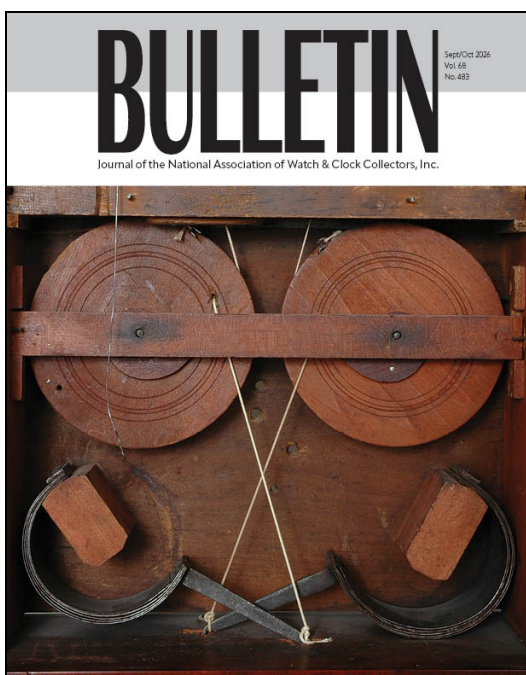
We welcomed Pennsylvania State Senator James Malone to the Museum on September 4 for a special check presentation and tour. Senator Malone helped secure a \$250,000 state grant to assist in replacing the Museum's HVAC system, critical to preserving our collections.

Helping Out and Cleaning Up

A hearty group of volunteers gathered on September 11 for a much-needed cleanup day at the Museum and School.

Damaged and outdated material from the Museum's basement and from the School was carefully disposed of or recycled.

Many thanks to the volunteers helping keep our facilities tidy and safe!



Bulletin Buzz

The [September/October Watch & Clock Bulletin](#) is packed!

- ~ America's 250th Anniversary: Celebrating Horology series: Benjamin Banneker (by Mary Jane Dapkus); Chauncey Jerome (by Chris Bailey); Joseph Ives (by Philip Morris)
- ~ "The Fourth Wetherfield Lantern Clock" by Dennis Radage
- ~ "The Grande Dame and Her Chauffeur" by Steve Humphrey
- ~ "From Military Salvage to Civilian Clock" by Ed Fasanella
- ~ Recaps of the Time Symposium, National Convention, and Crafts Competition
- ~ Plus Chapter Highlights, book reviews, puzzles, and more!

Published six times a year, the peer-reviewed journal is one of the [perks of NAWCC membership](#).

[Join or Renew Today](#)

Upcoming NAWCC Regional Events

2026

October 2-3: North Coast—Strongsville, OH

October 16-17: Mid-Eastern—York, PA

2027

January 21-23: Southwest California—La Mesa, CA

February 8-13: Florida Mid-Winter—St. Augustine, FL

March 12-13: Lone Star—Lewisville, TX

March 12-13: Arizona Sunshine—Fountain Hills, AZ

Visit nawcc.org/events for details on all NAWCC events.



Time to Learn



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

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

October 23-25, 2026: American-Style Time/Strike Movement *--Filled!*

November 13-15, 2026: Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing *--Filled!*

November 21-22, 2026: Machinist Boot Camp: Introduction to the Tabletop Lathe & Mill

December 5, 2026: Craft-A-Clock



Participants in the Watchmaker's Lathe workshop on August 31-September 2: (left to right) Marc Clodfelter, instructor Phil Stoller, Kevin Gorley, Andy Popkin, Ben Stewart, Kevin McCauley, Luke McKenzie, and Education Coordinator Sam Gradel.



Jerry Kieffer visited the NAWCC School of Horology to teach a wheel and pinion cutting workshop on September 12-13. Participants formed and tempered their own cutters, prepared hubs, and cut wheel teeth on the micro lathe and mill over an intense weekend. (left to right) Thomas Stocker, David Bressler, Louie Blasetti, Thomas Roberts, Lon Preston, instructor Jerry Kieffer, and Peter Lovell.

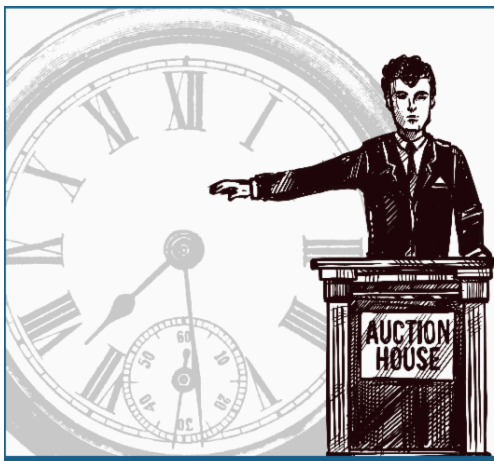
Cozy Up with Museum Fleece



The Museum Store

📍 514 Poplar St., Columbia, PA 🌐 shop.nawcc.org ☎ 717-684-8261

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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. Click to donate today!

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