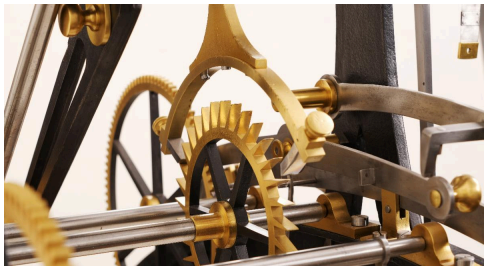
Monthly

News & Updates

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC



NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Greetings!

It is true that you cannot make an omelet without breaking a few eggs! With major projects behind us, we have been cleaning up some disarray left in their wake. Expanding the Museum's Public Time Gallery to house our nearly 20-foot-tall street clock had a significant effect behind the scenes. Many objects in the research collection room were moved to temporary storage, while the remaining pieces on the shelves were wrapped in polythene.

With the help of our regular volunteer and horological expert, Ralph Pokluda, we reconfigured storage space and furthered the thinning of the collection. We have marked duplicated items for deaccession and made room for new and better acquisitions. The Museum's collection continues to improve as interesting and rare pieces are donated.

The conservation area was also turned inside out, and we took the opportunity to lay new durable flooring and repaint the walls. The studio is a fitting backdrop for the new Bridgeport milling machine that was purchased for the Museum by means of a generous cash donation. Conservation work began in earnest this month with preparing objects for the new Electrical Time displays.

And now it's time for new projects. An exciting one is the development of a maker space in the School of Horology. We are now assembling the tools that will be used in these workshops. To ensure that we get it right, we have enlisted the help of a team of volunteers and staff to test the space with individual clock-building projects.

As we prepare to bring our horological ideas to life, our first step is to restore the donated equipment. We are working our way through a big pile of new and old machines and look forward to bringing the workshops into the best practical format possible. Our new woodworking shop is developing well, and we hope to install the 12-foot ceiling as soon as the permits are approved.

We are optimistic that some of the team will have completed pieces in time for the **Crafts Competition** at the **2027 National Convention**. Are you entering the competition? If so, we'd love to hear about your projects and maybe feature them in this newsletter or the *Bulletin*.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director



Timely Tip!

If you have a striking clock, the safest way to fall back is to stop the pendulum for 1 hour.

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.



Patented in 1802, this circa 1810 timepiece by Simon Willard of Grafton and Roxbury, Massachusetts, was an entirely new style of clock—shaped like a banjo—that was a wholly American design with no European counterpart.

"Simon Willard's patent timepiece is a uniquely American form which with good care through its life can keep time to the standards of many floor-standing regulators with mercury-compensating pendulums. Because of delicate components and the popularity of this form since 1900, a timepiece collector has a 90% chance of unknowingly buying one with significant condition problems. Authenticity aside, it still remains as one of the most popular early American timepieces for its fine proportions, decorative eglomisé paintings, and its place in history." *—Robert C. Cheney, NAWCC Silver Star Fellow and Director of the Willard House & Clock Museum*



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

Get our peer-reviewed *Bulletin*, attend collector events, access our research library, and more!

Become an NAWCC Member



Celebrating the Best of Horological Craftsmanship



2027 NAWCC Crafts Competition

June 10-13 • York, PA

Call for entries!

- Open to NAWCC members
- New and Restored Clocks and Watches, Decorative Art in Timekeeping, Innovations in Timekeeping
- People's Choice Trophy awarded at the Convention Banquet
- 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

November 24, 1782

On this day, Joseph Ives was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, the sixth of ten children and the fourth of six sons. The large family moved around in Joseph's youth before settling in Bristol, Connecticut. It was here that the Ives children honed their mechanical skills, which led Joseph and some of his siblings to become clockmakers.

Ives began his formal career in clockmaking in 1808 and would go on to receive six patents related to clockmaking. One of these patents was for rolling lantern pinions in his clocks. This ingenious (though not new) development was quickly redesigned by his contemporaries to have non-rolling lantern pinions in clocks, thus making their clocks cheaper. One of Ives's contemporaries, Hiram Camp, credits him with inventing "movement plates made of strips of brass crossed so that the arbors went through both thicknesses of the metal" (Kenneth Roberts, *The Contributions of Joseph Ives to Connecticut Clock Technology*, 2nd ed., p. 1). These "strap" movements allowed clockmakers to use brass at a low cost for their clocks during a time when brass was notoriously expensive to source.

Ives's innovative "looking-glass clock" had to thread a careful needle to avoid patent infringement lawsuits due to similarities between Ives's clock and those of his contemporaries Eli Terry and Simon Willard.

Ives died on April 18, 1862, leaving behind more value in his technical developments rather than in his physical possessions.



Above: An 8-day looking-glass wall clock by Joseph Ives, ca. 1820. Catalog no. 92.29.2.

Clocks and Trains: What's Not to Like?

by Ken De Lucca, Education Director



A few months ago, the School of Horology received an urgent request from the **National Toy Train Museum** in nearby Strasburg, Pennsylvania. The museum, sponsored by the Train Collectors Association (TCA), is a world-class toy train destination for kids of all ages (trust me on that one). Besides numerous interactive train layouts, there is also a full-service Toy Train Library for the research needs of its members.

Trains can't stay on time if they don't have an operational timekeeper. The Toy Train Museum had two waiting room clocks that had not functioned for years. It was *time* to change that. Would we be able to help? We were happy to lend a helping hand to a fellow local nonprofit organization.

One brisk, early spring day, Sam Gradel, School of Horology Coordinator, and I set off for the Toy Train Museum. What we found were two Seth Thomas waiting room clocks silently being correct twice a day. One was a Seth Thomas No. 2 Regulator; the other was a much more recent No. 2 reproduction. We removed them from the wall and loaded them into my vehicle. Sam and I were treated to a very special tour of the Toy Train Museum (highly recommended), along with a behind-the-scenes look at the repair center for the trains—very cool for me, being a Lionel type of person.

Back at the School of Horology, between setting up for workshops, running workshops, cleaning up after workshops, and the like, Sam was able to examine each of the two clocks. After that, we developed a scope of work necessary to provide restoration services for both of them. Sam carried out the restoration necessary for the two clocks, which included a thorough cleaning of the movements. The needs of both clocks were minimal, and after a good and lengthy test, the clocks were returned.

By that time, our friends at the Toy Train Museum had a plaque created to go with the original No. 2 clock (pictured here) that reads:

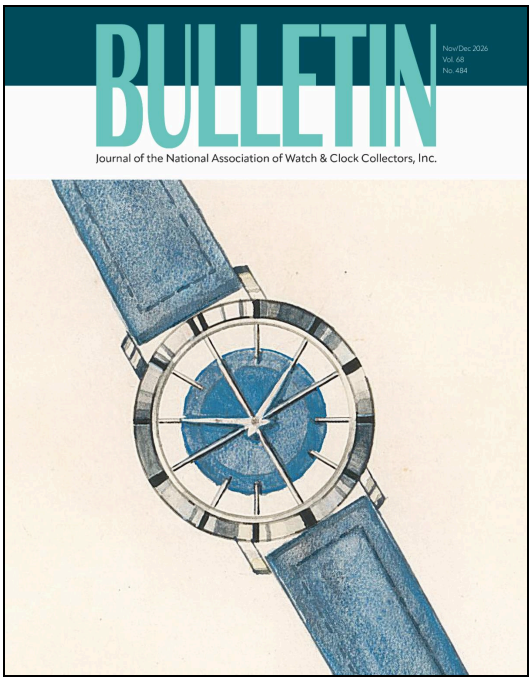
Seth Thomas Station Clock
Restored by the National Watch & Clock Museum



of Columbia, PA & the NAWCC School of Horology

Clocks and trains—a natural fit!

Bulletin Buzz



The **November/December Watch & Clock Bulletin** ends the year with a dazzling array of articles:

~ America's 250th Anniversary: Celebrating Horology series: Eli Terry (by Tom Vaughn); Seth Thomas (by Greg Gorton and Ian Roome); Early Upstate New York Clockmakers (Russ Oechsle)
~ *New!* Wired for Time series: "Electrical Horology" by Alex Melchert
~ The Art of Time: Antiquarian Watches series: "Benjamin Bell Clock-Watch" by Rich Newman
~ "A Season at Time Hill: The Last American Moment in Gruen Design" by Gregory Glenn Gersch
~ "The Grand Tour: Around the World in a Small Horological Collection, Part 1" by Dale Sardeson
~ "The Poor Man's Tourbillon: Inside the Waterbury Long Wind" by Andreas Kaupp
~ Plus a thank-you to the 2026 *Bulletin* authors, Chapter Highlights, 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

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

April 15-17
Southern Ohio—Wilmington, OH

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

Time to Learn

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)
November 13-15, 2026: Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing —*Filled!*

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

December 5, 2026: Craft-A-Clock



Check out our new education website!
edu.nawcc.org



Museum Holiday Cards
$12.50/Pack of 10

Receive a free gift with any online order from November 26 – January 1!

shop.nawcc.org

The Museum Store

Your source for thoughtful giving this holiday season.



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!

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