



National Association of
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

FAQ's

- What is Horology?

Horology is the art and science of timekeeping.

- What is the purpose of the NAWCC?

The NAWCC's mission is to advance the art and science of horology (timekeeping). The NAWCC actively serves the public and supports NAWCC members by providing educational opportunities, encouraging preservation, facilitating research, publishing horological works, providing online venues for information exchange, and sponsoring events. The National Watch and Clock Museum and the NAWCC Library & Research Center preserve a diverse collection of timekeeping artifacts, books, and archival materials. U.S. and international NAWCC chapters also host educational events and exhibits relating to horology.

- Where is the NAWCC headquartered?

The NAWCC is headquartered along U.S. Rt. 30 in the town of Columbia, PA, approximately 1-1/2 hours west of Philadelphia and 1-1/4 hours north of Baltimore—in the heart of the Lancaster County Amish area.

Why Columbia?

The connection to Columbia started in 1952 when Earl T. Strickler of Columbia was elected secretary. He organized and was caretaker of all Association records. In 1953 he became editor of the *Watch & Clock Bulletin* (formerly the *NAWCC Bulletin*). When the NAWCC later expanded, it kept Columbia, PA, as its home.

- How many members?

Since 1943 our nonprofit organization has grown from 52 Charter Members to an international organization with more than 16,000 members and over 159 Chapters.

- How much does it cost to join?

Currently, an individual membership costs \$82/year. Tiers of specialized membership are available for students or youth members, Internet-only memberships, and contributory memberships in which members may contribute more to receive more benefits. Our Business Membership program provides special business-oriented opportunities for members who have horology-related businesses; several tiers of business membership are also available. The NAWCC offers a discounted membership rate for family of current members.

- What is the most valuable timepiece in the Museum's collection and what is its value?

Some of our Museum items are literally priceless— one of a kind. In fact, the Museum boasts thousands of priceless objects that can rarely be viewed anywhere else. The entire collection has incredible historical value.

- How many visitors a year come to the Museum?

The Museum has from 12,000 to 15,000 visitors annually, depending on tourism trends, exhibits, and programs.

- How is the Museum funded?

The Museum is partially subsidized by members of the NAWCC and by admission revenue, Museum store sales, grants, and Museum friends.

- What programs and events are regularly held at the Museum?

The Museum has a full schedule of activities throughout the year. Some of the popular annual events include Night at the Museum Sleepover, Homeschool Day, Make-and-Take Clock Workshops, along with fun and educational special exhibits. The Museum even hosts annual wine-tasting—Wine & Chimes—and beer-tasting—Hops 'n' Clocks—events! These events are fundraisers for the NAWCC Library & Research Center.

- What happens in the Museum at Daylight Saving Time (DST)?

The Museum regularly runs a number of clocks in its exhibits and at DST the Museum Curator must ensure that these clocks are all presenting the correct time. This process is not as cumbersome as it may seem, because these clocks are regularly wound and maintained throughout the year.

- Are there other watch and clock museums in the United States?

Other museums include The American Watch and Clock Museum in Bristol, CT, and several smaller ones.

- Is there a place to do research?

Our Library and Research Center (located within our museum complex) specializes in providing reference services. With more than 30,000 books, catalogs, and periodicals, the Library and Research Center's resources can document timepieces around the world. We are also a lending library. Members may, either in person or via mail service, check out the books and videos in our circulating collection.

Our librarians and volunteers are available to conduct research for members free of charge. Non-members may conduct research in the Library for a suggested donation of \$5 or submit research requests for a \$20 fee.

- May I volunteer to help?

Volunteers play an important role at the National Watch and Clock Museum by assisting with educational tours for school groups or working behind the scenes in our library and offices. There are also volunteers from around the world who assist with our internet venues and research. The volunteer program staff will help you select a role that matches your interests and abilities with department needs.

For information about volunteering, call 717-684-8261 ext. 237.

- Where can someone go to learn about watch and clock repairs?

The NAWCC offers a variety of educational programs—Field Suitcase Workshops—throughout the country for the curious beginner or the advanced horologist.

The NAWCC provides learning opportunities in chapter and national events; hands-on training in workshops and instruction by professionals; and access to resources in the Library and Research Center, the National Watch & Clock Museum, and our publications.

The NAWCC School of Horology provides an extensive workshop schedule that covers the repair, restoration, conservation, maintenance and valuation of watches and clocks.

- What about the NAWCC Message Board?

Our extensive Internet message forums host over two million visitors a year. The forums can be viewed at <http://mb.nawcc.org> and are linked directly from the NAWCC website. In existence for many years, these forums are an ever-expanding archive of horological knowledge, tips, tricks, hints, and advice. New articles, links to sites of interest, and in-depth discussion appear there daily.

Non-NAWCC members may view the public areas of the message board. Registering for the message forums does not confer NAWCC member benefits to the registrant; it merely allows the user to post to the public forums.

- What is one watch and clock "fun" fact?

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time that lasts for 1/100th of a second, thus the saying, "I'll be there in a jiffy."

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