

**Pacific**  
**Northwest**  
**Portland**  
**Oregon**



**FEBRUARY 2011**

Presidential Message



**Council Members**

***President***

— Mary Gonzalez  
(president@nawcc31.org)

***Vice President***

— George Matto  
(vicepresident@nawcc31.org)

***Secretary***

— Kris Freiermuth  
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***Newsletter & Webmaster***

— Rod Lloyd  
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***Treasurer & Sunshine***

— Betty Chisum  
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**Directors**

Dan Miller (2012)  
Mark DeAtley (2012)  
Henry Casson (2014)  
Tom Hammond (2014)  
Ron Dusek (2014)

**Committee Chairs**

***Historian***

— Dan Miller

***Mart***

— Jeff Gonzalez

***Membership***

— John Bailey

***Program***

— Kay Henselman

***Nominating & Elections***

— Harold Baesler

***E-Mailings***

— Rod Lloyd

***Workshops***

— Mike Robinson

***Raffle & Door Prizes***

— Denise Johnson

***NAWCC Bulletin Coordinator***

— Kris Freiermuth

***Outside Events***

— Leo & Kris Freiermuth

I'm sorry for missing the last meeting and very thankful of George Matto, the ever faithful and most excellent VP for stepping in for me. The twins, Gunnar and Maya had their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and the party coincided with our meeting.

Our regional committee has been doing such a fantastic job and I thank each of you for your hard work. Are we getting ready for the regional, I know Jeff and I are. We have already sent in our registration, have you?

I am looking forward to the February meeting at the Monarch and if you plan on attending and eating lunch with us, make sure that you contact Kris Freiermuth with the information.

I have sent out word to the PNW chapters regarding the fall Multi-chapter and creating an up to date calendar, but have only heard back from one chapter as to their status on organizing a fall Multi-chapter. Will keep you in the loop as to where it will be held hopefully in next month's message. If there is anyone out there interested in organizing a multi-chapter meeting please let your voice be heard.

The Spring Multi-chapter in Connell, Washington is coming up soon and if you have never attended please think about it. It's small but has always been a time to make and renew friendships, find treasures and learn something new. The registration form is available on our website.

Well, with Valentines Day coming up and until next month consider the words of Mignon McLaughlin-

In the arithmetic of love, one plus one equals everything, and two minus one equals nothing.

Mary Gonzalez

President, Ch. 31



## CLUB EVENTS

### Time- Out Mart

A place for

- For Sale
- Wanted
- Trade

Send your copy to

[webmaster@nawcc31.org](mailto:webmaster@nawcc31.org)



**NAWCC31 Facebook page. It is the perfect place to upload photos of our events, our favorite clocks and watches and to chat with each other on club, clock or watch subjects. Please check it out and become a friend.**



**Temporary address**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Association-of-Watch-Clock-Collectors-Chapter-31/169137766455180?ref=sgm>

Date	Time	Description
Feb 20, 2011	2pm Mart 2:30 Meeting	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave Clackamas, OR 97015 Please bring a clock or watch which begins with "B" or "E" for Show & Tell.
Mar 20, 2011	2pm Mart 2:30 Meeting	Monthly Meeting, Beaverton Library 12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton, OR 97055 Program: Making a Regulator by Tom Hammond Tom Hammond will be sharing with us his project of making a "watchmaker's regulator", essentially a simple timepiece with deadbeat escapement, an Invar seconds-beating pendulum supported by a cast-iron backplate, and no motion works hence three separate subdials. Tom will share with you changes made to the original plans and construction techniques, including uncommon ones such as milling the escape wheel from titanium. General information about amateur clock making will also be covered.
Apr 17, 2011	2pm Mart 2:30 Meeting	Monthly Meeting, Beaverton Library 12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton, OR 97055 April, 2010 at the Beaverton Library: Program by Stephen Nelson One of his recent shipments of clocks from Austria contained two rather special examples of what are commonly-called "Vienna Regulators". While both are floor-standing clocks (Bodenstanduhren in German) and both run for longer than a week (making them long duration clocks), they differ in one very interesting, & important way: One is Austrian, hence a "Vienna regulator", the other is German, made in Vienna-style by Gustav Becker. His presentation will focus on their similarities, as well as their differences, and hopefully provides a simplistic understanding of the social and economic realities behind their development."
May 19-22, 2011	See Flyer	Pacific North West Regional Show, Portland Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave Clackamas, OR 97015 <a href="#">Flyer</a> No Chapter 31 meeting this month.

# Clock Cleaning 101

by Stephen Nelson, ([www.snclocks.com](http://www.snclocks.com))

It seems like people are often curious how I get the mechanisms I work on so wonderfully clean and shiny. There are a number of reasons they come out so well, the first of which is the cleaning solution I use. This is a classic recipe, one that has been around for a very long time. It consists of an ammoniacal solution (to remove the tarnish from brass) with a surfactant (to help dissolve oils and greases) and a brightening agent (to brighten the brass parts).

## Safety Considerations:

Wear hearing and eye protection when using compressed air.

Wear appropriate gloves when handling acetone, ammonia, and the cleaning solution

Have adequate ventilation when working with volatile chemicals like Acetone and Ammonia

Wear eye protection when working with solutions that can damage your eyes – this includes soaps, oleic acid, acetone, and ammonia.

## Recipe

Component	Volumes to make 1 pint of solution	Directions
Oleic acid	1 tbsp	Blend these components together in a separate jar
Acetone	1/4 cup (or 4 tbsp)	
-----		
Ammonia	1/2 cup	Blend these components together in the jar that will hold the finished solution
Liquid dish-washing soap	1/2 tbsp	
Acetone	1/2 tbsp	
Water	2 cups	

## Directions

The first two steps involve making the two blends listed above - one that contains only Oleic acid and Acetone, the other containing the final 4 ingredients. Stir these two solutions separately until they are well mixed, and, in the case of the first blend, until all the oleic acid is dissolved in the acetone. The acetone is used to get the oleic acid into solution. Once into solution it can then be mixed with water (the second solution)

Combine the two solutions described above and stir well to make the cleaning solution.

After cleaning with the above, rinse with water, then dry. I put small screws and other small bits into an aluminum-foil lined pie pan and place that on my gas range. I then turn on the fire and let it heat for 3 or 4 seconds, then turn off the gas and let the parts dry. Dries the small bits wonderfully. I blow dry the larger parts with compressed air.

## Discussion

This recipe is basically a 1 in 4 ammonia solution with soap to help dissolve/disperse oils and waxes, and oleic acid to brighten the brass. Yes, ammonia smells bad. I tend not to put my face down in it to test my breathing, unless I need to clear my sinuses. Common sense should rule here – don't work unless you have adequate ventilation – no matter who's recommendation you follow. Flip side, house wives have been using ammonia to clean windows for a long, long time. They are pretty smart, those house-wives.

The ammoniacal solution works great, and is very effective in an ultrasonic cleaner. It is not uncommon for me to take a really filthy mechanism and first soak the parts in an organic solvent, mineral spirits comes to mind, to remove the oils and greases. This helps keep the ammoniacal solution cleaner, and softens up the hard stuff.

After cleaning with this solution I polish, where necessary, with Brasso, or Simichrome. After polishing with Brasso or Simichrome, it's back into the ammoniacal solution, etc

I also wear, always, nitrile gloves. I strongly recommend using gloves, whatever you use to clean. I also recommend that every part be fully taken apart before cleaning. Everything. All screws removed. Otherwise the corrosion that you leave behind will one day preclude the screws coming out in one piece.

Environmental impact – well, let's see – oleic acid comes from animal fat. Totally biodegradable, in fact, drink as much as you

want. Ok, it will clean you out, much like mineral oil. But, not deadly. Ammonia – pour it down the drain. Ammonia is a fantastic nitrogen source for the bugs at the local POTW (fancy initials for publically owned treatment works – or sewage plant if you don't recognize the high faluting name). Dish soap – well, better be environmentally benign. And, that leaves acetone – which is necessary to help get the oleic acid into solution in water. Once again, good bug food in the POTW.

When not to use an ammoniacal solution. Thin, very worked brass (as in the cases of anniversary clocks that are covered with brass that has been spun to form the base) is work hardened. Or thin, spun brass bezels for clock dials. The ammonia can and will cause hardened brass to stress crack. So, don't go there with spun bases and the like. Flip side, I have never had a problem with brass springs found in Vienna Regulator mechanisms. Actually, I will go one step farther, I have never had a problem with stress cracking of brass. But, my metallurgical training tells me loud and clear that one can have such a problem.

After cleaning it is necessary to peg every hole to get any residual grunge or grit out of the holes. I even use my wood lathe to turn down dowels for pegging the larger holes. I can then "power peg" right on the wood lathe. My power pegging is the subject of another tech tid bit.

I put together the following discussion on Oleic acid and ultrasonic cleaners.

Oleic acid is almost amusing – you look on the web and find that Oleic acid is a monounsaturated fatty acid found naturally in many plant sources and in animal products. It is an omega-nine fatty acid, and considered one of the healthier sources of fat in the diet. It's commonly used as a replacement for animal fat sources that are high in saturated fat. You may find various butter and egg substitutes made with high levels of oleic acid.

As a fat, oleic acid is one of the better ones to consume. As a replacement for other saturated fats, it can lower total cholesterol level and raise levels of high-density lipoproteins (HDLs) while lowering low-density lipoproteins (LDLs), also known as the "bad" cholesterol. Usually switching to an oil high in oleic acid is not difficult since there are numerous sources available.

From a health standpoint, oleic acid exhibits further benefits. It has been shown to slow the development of heart disease, and promotes the production of antioxidants. One very interesting use of oleic acid is its use as an ingredient in Lorenzo's oil, a medication developed to prevent onset of adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a condition effecting only young boys that attacks the myelin sheaths of the body, causing symptoms similar to those in multiple sclerosis. Though Lorenzo's oil does not cure the condition, it can delay onset or progression of the disease in those who are not yet symptomatic."

And, on another site, where you can buy it as a soldering flux, you find: "Hazardous Material - No Air Shipments. PRODUCT CANNOT SHIP VIA ANY TYPE OF AIR TRANSPORT, INCLUDING UPS NEXT DAY AIR, UPS 2ND DAY AIR, UPS 3 DAY SELECT, FEDERAL EXPRESS, PRIORITY MAIL, ETC. THIS PRODUCT MUST SHIP VIA GROUND TRANSPORTATION ONLY!!! Promotes Solder Flow and Adhesion. Prevents oxidation. This CRL Oleic Acid is a soldering flux that cleans the surface and promotes solder flow. Designed to be brushed on with a Acid Brush prior to soldering. This product makes solder adhere better and prevents oxidation."

[www.amazon.com/](http://www.amazon.com/)

So, what's the big deal here? Simple answer – if buying a "Chemical" one gets the full load of haz mat information associated with specific words. Like acid. Now those of us that grew up in the '60s know what acid is. OK, that's not what we are talking here. We are talking a material that generates hydrogen ions. Hydrogen ions can do good things (like remove oxidation products from brass) and bad things (like eat up the body of a car). Oleic is a pretty mild acid, but it does provide a very effective brightening agent in the classical cleaning solution.

Ultrasonic cleaners. These cleaners take advantage of the turbulence generated in a liquid when it is vibrated by sound waves. These vibrations cause the liquid to move back and forth, which enhances the cleaning power of about any solution. And, yes, I use one. Even still, on a dirty mechanism, I will often lightly scrub the surface of the parts with a soft toothbrush (while wearing appropriate nitrile gloves to keep the ammonia from drying out my skin) (and while making sure that I do not put my head down close enough to the solution to clear out my sinuses) (and while wearing eye

protection to keep from getting ammonia in my eyes).

My feelings on ultrasonic cleaners are a bit mixed. They do a great job, but they are expensive. Most have a handy drain hose out the bottom of the tank so it is easy to drain back into the bottle for storing the cleaning solution. But, if a new clock person is limited on funds, and also limited on tools, I would suggest that they just take a bit more time when cleaning their parts, brush off the parts while immersed in the solution, get some pipe cleaners and push them through the holes that are big enough, and you will get a better clean than you will with an ultrasound. Then, if, down the road, you have a good lathe, collets, chucks, and other needed tools, hey, an ultrasound is quite nice to have –

especially since they have that neat drain out the bottom.

FYI – my background is chemical engineering, have earned 6 patents, spent many years in the environmental remediation field, managed research into a novel titanium alloy, and now I spend a lot of my time working on Vienna Regulators. I have probably been through 300 or 400 Vienna mechanisms, and probably through more long duration Vienna mechanisms than anyone else in the world. I hope that helps give you an idea where I am coming from with the comments I made above.

Stephen Nelson, who provides no warranties, stated or implied, as to the effectiveness of these techniques. If you want to see how well they work, visit his web site ([www.snlocks.com](http://www.snlocks.com))

## ***Dues are Over Dues***

***Second dues notices have been sent to members who haven't paid yet. Please respond and continue to support Chapter 31***

***Thank You***

***John Bailey***

***Membership***



# *Secretary's Notebook*

## NAWCC – CHAPTER 31 Chapter Meeting Minutes – 17 January 2011

The January meeting of Chapter 31 was called to order by George Matto 2:22 PM at the Beaverton Library.

35 members of Chapter 31 including new member Steve Nelson were present with eight (8) guests from IATI, Inc. Mr. Nelson & his wife Kelle Green just moved to Oregon from Oklahoma. He has been a regular author in The Bulletin. His primary “passion” is Vienna Regulators.

**Approval of Minutes** – The November minutes were approved as published in the Time-Out.

**Treasurer's Report** – Betty Chisum gave accounts of all balances and we continue to be solvent. She everyone for sending in their dues & reminded everyone to pay their National dues.

**Membership Report** – None. John Bailey was out of town.

### **New Business** –

George Matto – reported on the progress of the Regional Planning Committee's activities for Terry White. Their meeting preceded the business meeting of the Chapter and is progressing on track. He mentioned several new ideas for the Regional are in the development phase, but show great promise. One of which is a 10 Minute University lecture suggested by Mike King. It is a tool used by the Master Gardeners and would be about specific clock & watch topics with a Q&A.

**Program** - Kay Henselman introduced Dan Usher and Tami Ramiaz of “It's About Time, Inc. “IATI” “the HershedeHall Clock” consortium. Mr. Usher gave an overview of the goals of IATI and discussed their up coming book about the evolution of the HershedeHall clocks and interviews they have been involved with some of the former craftsman of the company of Hershede's family members. They also spoke about their search for a 10,000 square foot building to house the planned Hershede's Museum. Presently they have 100 of the clocks either fully or partially restored for display.

There was one Hershede Mother-in-law clock bought by a member to share, which according to David Usher, CEO of IATI is quite rare. What makes the clock so rare is that it is quite small and the works of it are the same size as the mechanism of the regular clocks, and is a snug fit in this lovely example.

**Program Report** – Kay Henselman indicated next month's program with be a Show n' Tell of items beginning with the letters “B” or “E.” She reminded everyone the meeting will be a luncheon meeting at The Monarch Hotel.

**Raffle** – Denise Johnson sold raffle tickets for many excellent horological items.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

**Next meeting: Luncheon Meeting Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> February, held at The Monarch Hotel.**

We will meet on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March at the Beaverton Library, Mart at 2PM and meeting at 2:30 PM.

Submitted by Kristen Freiermuth, Secretary  
Chapter 31

# February Luncheon Meeting

## Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010



**Monarch Hotel  
12566 S. E. 93rd Ave  
Clackamas, OR**



**97015**

**2:00 pm Mart**

**2:30 pm Meeting**

**Lunch following the Meeting**

**\$18.00 per Person**

**Little Italy Buffet**

Caesar Salad, Antipasto Platter, Chicken Parmaesan,  
Penne Pasta Primavera,  
Garlic Breadsticks

(How many meals)\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount Encl. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make payable to NAWCC)

**RSVP 2/17/2011**

**Send to:** Portland Chapter NAWCC Holiday  
Gathering

559 NE 167th Place  
Portland, OR 97230



NAWCC Pacific  
Northwest Chapter 31  
Portland Oregon

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20140 S. Fischer Mill Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

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