

MENOMONEE VALLEY TIMES®



MENOMONEE VALLEY CHAPTER 47 WISCONSIN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC

May 2022

NEXT MEETING - May 1st

May Program

**Mike Dempsey -
"Digging for Gold"**

Menomonee Valley Chapter 47

May 1, 2022
September 25, 2022
November 13, 2022

Madison Chapter 171

First Wednesday of even
number months

Chicagoland Chapter 3

Tailgate-May 7, 2022
September 18, 2022
October 30, 2022
December 4, 2022

Chapter 47 Officers and Directors

- ▶ President: Craig White
 - ▶ Vice Pres.: Harry Schulz
 - ▶ Secretary: Karyn Critelli
 - ▶ Treasurer: Danno Osterud
 - ▶ Past Pres.: Mike Dempsey
 - ▶ Director: Larry Jacobi
 - ▶ Director: Bill Galinsky
 - ▶ Director: Karyn Critelli
- ### **Committees**
- ▶ C47 Midwest Regional:
Representative Craig White
 - ▶ Webmaster: Amelia Osterud

Presidents Message,

COVID seems to be subsiding and mask guidance from the CDC have been reduced. Masks will not be required for those of us that are fully vaccinated and boosted. Please continue to be considerate of others and wear a mask covering your nose and mouth if you have not received all your vaccinations. Thank you for your help in this.

I hope you had learned a tip or two from my presentation. Being locked up in my workshop for a couple of years during the pandemic did lead to improvements in my shop and tools. Having lots of time allows one to think of improvements and having the time to get them done was useful. Not my first choice of how to spend a couple of years but glad I have a hobby that keeps me busy and entertained.

We still need a volunteer for a talk and/or demonstration for December 2022. Please contact Harry Schultz or myself with ideas or suggestions.

Free tables!! A free silent auction table will also be available.

Educational Talks Scheduled:

The May Educational talk will be entitled "Digging for Gold" by Mike Dempsey. Learn some tips and tricks on what to look for in and out of a mart room will be discussed. Featured will be watches from the 1600's until the 1950's that I am sure very few of you have ever seen before. Photographs and descriptions will be shown in a PowerPoint format. Sure to be very interesting even if you are not a watch collector.

Bill Galinsky will demonstrate making clock hands November 13.

Hope to see you all there.

Thanks,
Craig

Note from the Treasurer

Dues for 2022 are now due. If you haven't already paid, please pay today. We have had fewer renewals than usual for this point in the year, and in order to keep holding these meetings we need people to pay their dues. Even if you aren't planning on coming now, if you want to be able to come in the future, we need people to pay their dues.

If you have any questions about whether your dues are paid, or how much you owe, please contact Danno at NAWCC.Chapter47@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Danno Osterud
Treasurer

MENOMONEE VALLEY CHAPTER 47 WISCONSIN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK
COLLECTORS, INC

NAWCC CHAPTER 47
P O Box 80813
Milwaukee WI 53208



Knights of Columbus
732 Badger Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172
Banquets and Meetings
Parties and Dances
Call
414-764-1709

MENOMONEE VALLEY CHAPTER 47

| DESCRIPTION | Time | Price | 2022 |
|---|---------|---------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 47 Membership Dues | 1 Year | \$25.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Card prepaid entry to meetings | 1 Year | \$10.00 | OR \$3 at door |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NAWCC Membership Dues <i>Use NAWCC Form-send to NAWCC</i> | 1 Year | \$90.00 | \$110 with spouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mart Table at Chapter meeting* | 1 Mart | \$ 0 | *FREE to Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Newsletter via mail | 1 Year | \$5.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Card ad in newsletter | 1 issue | \$5.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Chapter 47 | 1 | \$ | |
| *Make checks payable to NAWCC CHAPTER 47 | | | Total: _____ |

Method of Payment Check Business Check Cash, paid in person Bill me for Ad Pay Pal

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P O Box 80813
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Email: NAWCCChapter47@gmail.com
Web site: www.NAWCC47.com



National Association of
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.



**Have too many
project clocks or
watches? Extra
tools gathering
dust? Books
taking up space
on your shelf?**

**Clean house and sell your unneeded horological
items at the Chapter's Silent Auction Tables!**

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| February 1, 2022 | |
| Opening Balance | \$1,673.31 |
| Income: | |
| Dues and Admission | \$ 319.00 |
| Donations | \$ 40.00 |
| Printed Newsletter | \$ 5.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 364.00 |
| Expenses: | |
| Hall Rental | (\$ 250.00) |
| Newsletter | (\$ 25.30) |
| Donuts and Fruit | (\$ 21.97) |
| Total Expenses | (\$ 297.27) |
| March 31, 2022 | |
| Closing Balance | \$ 1,740.04 |



Dan Osterud, Treasurer

Horological Trivia and Tidbits THE POCKET WATCH

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all—the telegraph operator was. Most of the time, the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all.

He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and partner Alvah Ruebuck!

Now that's History.

