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Obama's Secret Service Chronograph

On the occasion of his 46th birthday, on August 4, 2007, Barack Obama received a gift from the Secret Service agents who had been responsible for protecting him during his Presidential campaign—a large, black-dialed chronograph bearing the shield of the Secret Service. This chronograph was purchased by the Secret Service agents in the Secret Service employees' store, located at Secret Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The chronograph is a private label watch available only in the Secret Service employees' store. The watch is manufactured for the Secret Service store by Jorg Gray, and appears in the Jorg Gray online catalog as the JGC6500 Chronograph. The chronograph is made in China, with a Japanese movement, (real nice, huh?).

This Secret Service chronograph sells for approximately \$210 in the employees' store. This store is operated by the United States Secret Service Employee Recreation Association ("ERA"), and all profits from the store go to charities supported by the ERA. The employees' store is not open to the public; accordingly, these "Barack Obama Secret Service Chronographs" are destined to remain scarce among the chronograph collectors.



Other faces on the Hill...

If you're a watch junkie, you notice what others are wearing. What better time than the pre-election media blitz to notice what some of the candidates and the Washington "powers that be" are sporting on their wrists?

The watch a person wears can say a lot about them. But it can also be a reverse icon. An enormous number of the very rich in power in Washington sport el-cheapo blue collar watches as if wearing a Timex IronMan shows that they are in touch with the common man.

Barack Obama wore a TAG-Heuer Series 1500 Two-Tone Divers watch, from the early or mid-1990's until late 2007. Then something strange happened. In the place of this rather common TAG-Heuer, the experts spotted a huge black Panerai; others saw a black-dialed Carrera re-issue; and still others saw a Royal Oak.

John McCain doesn't like wearing jewelry, and doesn't wear a wristwatch. He has never been seen wearing a watch of any sort.

Henry Paulson, late of Goldman Sachs, whose net worth is estimated to be about \$700 million, wears a \$39 plastic digital watch.

Joe Biden wears a nice Omega Seamaster (\$2,500) which is one of the most solidly built workhorses and had the added benefit of being the watch worn by James Bond in the movies. The Senator soon realized the laser feature didn't work, but kept the watch anyway. Biden is the only candidate who wears his watch on a steel bracelet...every other candidate uses a leather strap.



Sarah Palin has been seen wearing a variety of Raymond Weil Watches (approximately \$200).

George Bush's Timex "Easy Reader" (love the name) was famously stolen (and then returned) by Albanians. This wasn't the first tempest over Bush's Timex. In 2005, the Russian newspaper *Pravda* boasted that its country's leader beats Bush in the watch race. Vladimir Putin wears a \$60,000 Patek Philippe.

We've tried, with no success, to find the brand George H.W. Bush was wearing during the 1992 "wristwatch debate."





If any readers know, please share.

Yeah, but how does it handle...?

Finally, a use for the old watch parts you can't bring yourself to throw away. You just knew someday there would be a use for them somehow, someday. Follow this link to see more great photos of these ingenious "horolocycles."

http://nawcc.org/business-membership/watch_motorcycles.html



The NAWCC Partners with The National Science Olympiad.

"It's About Time" will include over 10,000 high school students across the country.

As part of its 25th anniversary, the Science Olympiad is bringing back this popular horological event. This event is the perfect opportunity for NAWCC members to reach out to a younger generation (on a national level) who are interested in the science of horology and want to learn about it.



What students have to do:

- Students will use a non-electrical device which they have constructed prior to the tournament to measure time intervals between 10 and 300 seconds.
- They will be asked to answer questions about issues such as the concept of time, timekeeping, astronomy, physics, mechanics and horology.

What You as an NAWCC member can do:

- Mentor teams in your local area Work with students at Science Olympiad practice sessions.
- Assist at regional or state tournaments Present at teacher trainings.
- Provide expertise to national event supervisors on industry-specific concepts.
- Provide web, electronic or visual resources to assist students with the event.

To learn more about how you can help, please contact Katie Knaub at 717-684-8261 ext. 237, or kknaub@nawcc.org.

More news...



"Time in Office" exhibit receives international acclaim.

From CNN's Travel Section, to *International Watch*, *Uhren*, and *Watchtime* magazines, the NAWCC National Watch & Clock Museum's "Time in Office" exhibit is getting the attention of horologists worldwide. "It's great for the Museum to host an exhibit that is attracting such a worldwide audience" says Noel Poirier, Museum Director.

Weekend Workshops at the School of Horology.

Check out the fall weekend workshop line up as well as upcoming workshops for 2009!

http://www.horology.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=35&Itemid=133.

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