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### AWCI's mobile classroom is officially on the road

*For 60 years AWCI has been providing quality horological education to the industry and now they are taking their training on the road with their new mobile classroom.*

The American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute (AWCI) unveiled a brand-new state-of-the-art mobile horology classroom with a ribbon-cutting ceremony 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 31, 2019 at the JCK Las Vegas show. Guest of Honor Roland Murphy of RGM Watches along with the children of horological legend Archie Perkins joined with supporters of AWCI and horological education to cut the ribbon and welcome show attendees on board to participate in training and see the future of watch and clock repair education.



After the ribbon cutting ceremony hundreds of JCK attendees had the privilege of experiencing the classroom for themselves by touring the classroom and participating in short seminars including topics such as *Profitable Watch Battery Replacement, Sizing Watch Bracelets, Opening and Closing Difficult Casebacks, and Identifying Fake Watches.* The classroom has hosted its first Build a Watch and Build a Clock classes and they were a success. Tom Gillis, who participated in the Build a Watch with Roland Murphy at JCK said "the mobile classroom is an incredible concept. Any watch collector would be interested in participating. All the equipment is the highest quality and we had everything we needed. I

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would definitely participate again.” Patrick Beck, a watchmaker from Texas said, “my first impression was jealousy of the amazing tools. The classroom and instruction are very professional.”

The Mobile Horology Classroom is named in honor of legendary watchmaking instructor Archie Perkins, author of 4 highly respected textbooks on watch restoration. It is a fully equipped training facility built on a 38-foot Freightliner chassis, which is currently touring the United States bringing training and events directly to professional watchmakers, clockmakers, jewelry store staff, and collectors. The mobile classroom will help AWCI provide training to professional horologists, support industry through collectors’ events, and introduce new people to the world of horology by visiting career days and community events.



For years watchmaking and clockmaking education has been available at only a handful of locations around the country, and the burdens of travel and time away from the shop have made it difficult for individuals to attend training. The mobile classroom makes it possible for professionals to upgrade their skills without the inconvenience of travel and closing down the shop for long periods of time. The classroom is equipped with 9 custom watchmaking benches and the latest tools from Beco Technic, Bergeon, Witschi, Elma, Greiner Vibrograf, and Jules Borel; and with the additional generous support of Illinois Watch Company, Renata Batteries, Ronda, JCK, and Johnson Investment Counsel, AWCI will be training more people than at any time in its history.

Our initial trip with the mobile classroom included a visit to the Bay Area Maker Faire, Salt Lake City, and JCK Las Vegas. The classroom will visit North Carolina, Boston, New York, Louisiana, Ohio, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Virginia before the end of the year with another trip planned to the Western United States at the beginning of 2020. For a schedule of events please visit [www.awci.com/mobile-classroom](http://www.awci.com/mobile-classroom).

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## More about the Mobile Classroom

The Archie Perkins Mobile Horology Classroom is custom-built and the world's horological classroom on wheels. The classroom features 9 custom-made, height-adjustable watchmaking benches with VOH armrests from Beco Technic. Each bench is equipped with compressed air and vacuum, a full set of hand tools from Bergeon and Beco Technic for the watchmaker, and the latest timing machines from Witschi. The classroom has a 4-foot screen and projector and individual monitors which can display the instructor's presentation, bench camera, or digital microscope.



The vehicle is handicapped accessible, has a restroom on board, and a dedicated cleaning room with the latest cleaning equipment from Elma and water-testing equipment from Greiner Vibrograf.



The mobile classroom was built to meet the needs of the luxury watch and clock industries. When the classroom arrives in a city, the primary goal is to deliver quality training programs to professional watchmakers and clockmakers through AWCI's affiliate chapters and to meet the training needs of retail watch and jewelry establishments. The classroom will also host AWCI's acclaimed Build a Watch events for collectors, which have been featured in *Revolution Magazine* and *Professional Watches* and will make appearances at high school

career days and Maker Faires, giving young people a chance to experience possible careers in watch and clock repair.

In order to bring new awareness to watchmaking and clockmaking careers, AWCI is on a mission to visit all 48 continental states and participate in career day or other community events.

## More about our Sponsors

Some of the most recognized names in the watch industry have supported the mobile classroom through generous donations including:

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### More about Archie Perkins

Archie Perkins is a true legend in watchmaking education. He began his watchmaking career at a young age and attended the Elgin Watchmakers College from 1944-46. W. H. Samelius, director of the Elgin Watchmakers College, was impressed with Archie's abilities and had Archie teaching while he was still a student. In addition to working for jewelry stores repairing watches, Archie taught at the American Academy of Horology in Denver, Colorado, and the Emily Griffith Opportunity School where he taught for 32 years and was voted "Vocational Educator of the Year" in 1981. Even after his retirement, Archie continued to teach from home and for the American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute.



Throughout his career Archie was a regular contributor to *The American Horologist and Jeweler*, *Horological Times*, *Watch and Clock Review*, the *NAWCC Bulletin*, and the *British Horological Journal*. He is the author of the widely acclaimed books *The Modern Watchmakers Lathe and How to Use It*, published by AWCI in 2003, and *Antique Watch Restoration, Volumes I, II, and III*.

In the HT article from August 2015, Archie said, "Teaching and writing were the most exciting aspects of my career. I was happy to write for *The American Horologist and Jeweler*. By doing a little each month, I honed my skills in drawing. In 1978 Hal Herman asked me to write for *Horological Times*. I'm proud of my drawings, and I hope the writing is equally as good."

Horological institutions and associations recognized Archie's contributions on numerous occasions. He achieved distinguished AWCI titles of Certified Master Watchmaker and Fellow of the American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute. He was also awarded Fellow

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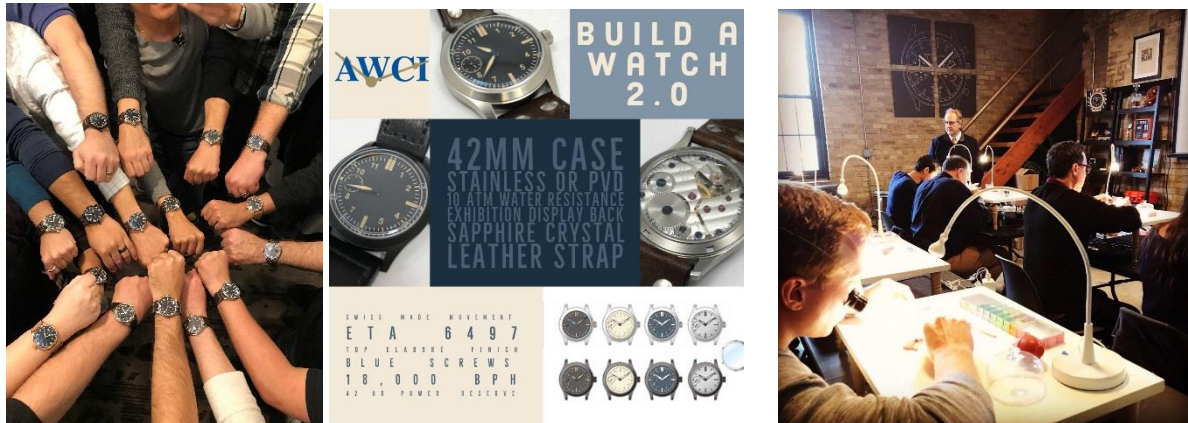
of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and Fellow of the British Horological Institute.

We extend thanks to Archie's family for their continued support of watchmaking education and honor him with the world's first mobile horology classroom.

### More about Build a Watch Events

AWCI's Build a Watch classes are 8-hour crash courses in watchmaking! If you have ever wondered how a watch works or if you are curious about what goes on under the dial, this class is perfect for you.

Participants gain a real understanding of mechanical timepieces as they assemble a Swiss-made ETA 6497 movement, lubricate the moving parts, install a dial and hands, and case up the watch before wearing it home!



These events have been held in Los Angeles and New York and at many stops in between. With the mobile classroom, AWCI can bring these events to almost any location.

### About the American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute:

The American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute (AWCI) is the professional organization for watchmakers and clockmakers in the United States. Our mission is setting service standards and educating the horological community. For almost 60 years AWCI has served as a liaison between bench practitioners and the horological industry as we advance the art, science, and business of horology. Members of AWCI gain access to our extensive library of books, our monthly



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