



Chapter 52 Los Padres

**Virtual Meeting Show & Tell
April, 2021**

Website: <http://new.nawcc.org/index.php/chapter-52-los-padres>

Hello fellow members

Since we are confined to our homes by the Covid-19 pandemic and our regular meetings have been canceled, here is the monthly *Virtual Meeting Show and Tell*.

My story of clock repair continues.

Please help me keep this newsletter going. Consider adding your story or post something for sale.

Keep safe and keep on ticking.

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by Phil Keys

**NAWCC Chapters
are presenting Zoom meetings
and you are invited to join them!**

NAWCC Chapter meetings have been affected by the Corona Virus.

To circumvent this a number of NAWCC Chapters are offering online Zoom meetings.

These are posted on the NAWCC website on our [Events listing page](#).

Fixing Clocks For a Hobby

Phil Keys

Well last month I described my troubles with the cuckoo clock.

Well finally, FINALLY, I got it to work. I ran the movement on a test stand for a week without the music box. So OK, the problem is the control of the music box.

After much fiddling I determined that the issue was with the position of the movement control arm on the rack hook arbor. If it was too high, the music box lever wasn't depressed enough for the music box to go into warning.

If it was too low, every several days the rack hook couldn't lift enough and the strike train was locked. The movement continued ticking but the hands didn't move (the center arbor clutch was slipping) and the clock didn't strike.

In between was a sweet spot where everything thing worked. I won't tell you how long it took me to find that spot! Part of the problem is having to remove a whistle to get enough room to get a stubby screwdriver kinda on the control arm set screw. Since the problem could only be diagnosed in the case I couldn't see what was happening with the strike levers. The sweet spot was only found by experimentation.

The Seth Thomas mantle clock turned out to be interesting. It is a model #722 with a #44 "hip" count wheel movement. The movement is a predecessor to the Seth Thomas #89 movement.

Seth Thomas kindly painted 722 on the back of the clock . The 6981 H date code on case bottom corresponds to August 1986

From collectorsweekly.com:



"This clock was known in the Larkin Soap Catalog as the #722. To get this clock new, you would have to redeem so many coupons, or buy an assortment of soaps that they offered as their Great Combination Box (approximately \$10 worth of soap: \$260 adjusted for inflation in 2010)."

This movement strikes the hour on a gong but there is no half hour strike.

Visible through the back plate is a strange fat lever. The arm pivots on a rivet below the verge and has an short right angle arm with

a pin on the end.

At first I thought this was a lever to manually advance the strike but lifting the lever moves the pin to the left instead of to the right to lift the J-hook lift lever.

I bought Steven Conover's *Book 6 Seth Thomas* which describes popular Thomas movements including this one. Page 64 describes the Seth Thomas *Turn Back* feature which uses this lever,

I like Steven Conover's books and have a number of them. He has very practical explanations.

The fat part of the turn back lever is a counterweight so that the pin presses on the J-hook. This puts the J-hook in the right position to be lifted by the center arbor lift wire which puts the strike train into warning.

This lever also keeps the J-hook out of the way of the center arbor lift wire when the minute hand is turned backwards through "12".

This movement also has the same external escape wheel and verge as the Seth Thomas school clock I described last month.

The count wheel is mounted concentric to the second wheel. It's interesting how it is driven. The third wheel lantern pinion that engages the second wheel has one trunnion that protrudes past the outside cap of the lantern pinion. This protruding trunnion engages the teeth in the count wheel so that when the second wheel turns the third wheel the third wheel lantern pinion advances the count wheel.

The count wheel teeth are straight on one side and concave on the other allowing room for the trunnion. This acts as a jumper which moves the count wheel for half a revolution of the third wheel and the count wheel remains still for the second half of the revolution. This means that the count wheel doesn't move while the count lever blade is de-



scending into a count wheel notch.

Now on to an old French clock and a Seiko Melodies in Motion clock which is running slow. Also the owner of the three clocks I just fixed has another small clock for me to look at.

I continue to be busy during the pandemic.

The story continues next month.