



## **Chapter 52 Los Padres**

### **Virtual Meeting Show & Tell January, 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 ninth monthly *Virtual Meeting Show and Tell*.

Regular contributor Bert Townsend submitted an article about a really old clock movement.

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 well. Best wishes for the New Year.

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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](#).

## A REALLY OLD SWEDISH MOVEMENT

This article describes a rare find. As seen in the photos, it is an “ancient” time and strike movement with no case, which the SLO owner picked up at a garage sale.

Look closely at the dial plate as well as the movement plates. They were obviously made flat by means other than a rolling press. Many of the steel or iron parts appear to be hand cut and crudely finished. The gear wheels are of brass and were cut by a machine. The pendulum consists of a wire rod with a sheet metal bob. The pulleys are wood as are the winding drums. They chapter ring looks to be of pewter.



The repair required several steps. First there were obvious, key problems with the escapement, especially escape wheel tooth lengths or out-of-roundness. Before the wheel could be topped the arbor had to be straightened. It was bent on both sides of the wheel. Fortunately the metal was soft enough to allow this without breaking. This



step went a long way toward remedying the escapement problem but still there were tooth length discrepancies. The Wheel was topped, that is turned while a fine file was applied to the teeth tips to in an attempt to equalize the lengths. The topping is followed by a fine filing on each tip to remove burrs. In spite of those efforts there remained about 8 teeth in one arc which were and are unequal.

As seen in the photos, there are brass inserts riveted into the steel plates in which pivot holes are bored. A number of these had, in the past, been hammered by a center punch to close the holes but several were badly worn. I carefully bored the worst pivot



holes and riveted in old fashioned pivot wire. This commodity is brass stock which is pre-drilled. To use it, an appropriate length is cut with a jeweler's saw. Then it is peened on both sides to fix it into the plate. This is considerably more time consuming than today's friction fit bushings. I acquired a small supply of such pivot wire at a mart years ago so didn't have to order it.



The final step permitting this movement to continue ticking was to set the beat, not a mean task. It would successfully run only after the beat was set as near to perfect as possible, especially due to the arc of unequal teeth. It had to be beat set by bending the steel crutch.

This movement probably originally had gut to wind the weights, but it now has synthetic cord which I renewed. The cord I found on it was worn, striped fishing line.

Looking at the photo of the weights you see they are fairly massive in the high teens of pounds. Note also there have been slabs of additional weight added over the years. I wonder if the extra weight is needed following the repairs.



I didn't touch that one. Due to all that weight the wooden bracket, seat and backboard, have been reinforced, by others, with "L" brackets, large bolts & nuts and steel rods; very unorthodox and unsightly but effective.

Then there is a fun aspect, the name Magnus Enwall. Who could he have been? There is a Jonas Isak Engvall, 18<sup>th</sup> century clock maker, Sweden, in *Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World* by G H Baillie. Could Magnus be a son or grandson? Interestingly, an internet search reveals there is an extant Swedish entertainer named Magnus Engwall.

I wonder is this movement could have been Engwall's journeyman's exam project. Just a thought.

Bert Townsend

## Fixing Clocks For a Hobby

Phil Keys



Not much to say this month. I'm been busy refurbishing a small boiler for a model stationary steam engine.

The story of the modern Seth Thomas wall clock continues. After not being able to reproduce the problem of the click spring winding up on the wrong side of the clicks, I decided that the key must have been slipping off of the winding arbor when the owner was winding it. I suggested that she firmly press the key onto the arbor while winding. So far the problem hasn't happened again (fingers crossed).

.An interesting thing happen last month when I sent out this newsletter. At the same time I sent out the newsletter I do for the local Mercedes club. Yes you guessed it. I sent the Chapter 52 newsletter to the Mercedes club members. My only excuse for the confusion is age.

But as it happens one of the Mercedes club members responded asking me if I could fix two old clocks he has. Serendipity I guess. An odd way to advertise.

The story continues next month.



A Mercedes Club member's car.