



## Replacing Hunting Case Springs

by Dave Coatsworth

Pocket watch hunting cases have a pair of springs that latch the cover and cause the cover to open when unlatched. These are called, respectively, the 'latch' spring and the 'lift' spring. Due to the additional stresses placed on it, the lift spring is usually the one that breaks and requires replacement. Breakage happens much less often with the latch spring as its movement is comparatively small.

The photo below shows the different springs available. The first and third springs are what we call "universal" springs as they accommodate a wide range of retaining hole placements and do not have any extra depth. With some modification, they will fit almost any hunting case. The second spring is a manufacturer specific spring, but notice that a couple of extra holes have been drilled in it. You will occasionally see the double-ended spring. These are easier to replace as they are usually just held in by the tension of the spring itself.

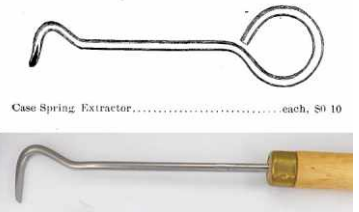


To replace a spring, we must first remove the bezel and the movement. Removing the bezel will expose two pins or screws that retain the springs. If you see screws, go ahead and remove the one on the broken spring. This can sometimes be a challenge as they are very small and tend to rust. If pins were used to retain the springs, the first thing we are going to try to do is to push the pins in further to make it easier to remove the spring. Find a punch that is about the same size as the pin, place the case on a soft surface like a towel and lightly tap the pin. If it goes in – great! If not, then it just makes the next step a bit more difficult.



With the screw removed or the pin pushed in, we must next remove the broken spring. I made the tool shown below after seeing a similar tool in an old watch tool catalog. It's simply a piece of round 1/8 inch steel stock on which I have flattened and hooked the end. There is also a slight offset to the hooked end to allow it to fit flat in the groove inside the case. You might want to make two or three of these tools of differing sizes to handle a range of case sizes. Place the tool behind the spring and pry out the back of the spring. Pay close attention to what parts of the case are in contact with the tool as you don't want to mar any visible part of the case. If you have made your tool the correct shape, this should not be an issue.

Once you have removed the spring, check your supply of spares to find a spring that has the same curvature, height, depth (for springs with weight added to the back of the spring), and hole placement. This is not always possible and you will then have to select the spring that is closest and modify it to match the old spring. Alternately, you can select one of these universal replacement springs. You will still need to make sure the curvature and height are the same, but the hole placement and depth are no longer an issue. When modifying the height, find a clamp or vise that will hold the spring securely and file away the extra material.

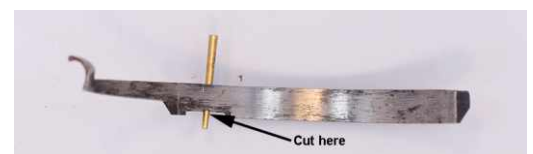


Case Spring Extractor..... each, \$9.10

Fit the spring into the case by hand to check the fit. Don't press it all the way in just yet. You just want to convince yourself that it is going to fit all the way in, that the retention hole will line up and that the lift tab is going to line up with the case lid correctly. If all looks good, go ahead and press it in as far as possible by hand, making sure that the holes are lining up. (It will be difficult to shift the spring later, so you want to make sure you get the hole alignment right initially.)



Unless your spring has a retaining screw, we need to prepare a pin to retain the spring. Select a brass taper pin that, somewhere along its length, is about the size of the hole in the case frame and that in the spring. Cut off the small end of the pin so that the lowest part of the pin now fits in the hole in the spring snugly. Cut it a little short of the bottom of the spring as we are going to push the



## Officers and Directors

### PRESIDENT

Mostyn Gale  
(805) 962-9083 • clocks@saving-time.org

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

David Coatsworth  
(805) 358-4917 • dave@biswebdesign.com

### 2nd vice-president

Pat Fitzgerald  
(818) 882-6314 • 390carguy@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

Sue Gary  
(805) 388-1694 • shg2753@yahoo.com

### TREASURER

Mike Schmidt  
(805) 988-1764 • EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

### DIRECTORS

#### Annual Mart

T.B.D

#### Membership

Robert Gary  
(805) 388-1694 • RobertsClockworks@verizon.net

#### Education

Ferdinand Geitner  
(805) 565-9097

#### Public Education

Lex Rooker  
(562) 869-1895 • lex.rooker@usinter.net

#### Hospitality/lunch

Mike Schmidt/Miguel Valdes  
(805) 988-1764 • EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

#### Public Relations

Bob McClelland  
(818) 225-8212 • rjmccl@pacbell.net

#### Programs

Matt Bonaccorso  
(818) 790-0223 • bonaccorsomj@yahoo.com

#### Photographer

Bill Robinson  
(805) 642-7329 • whrobi@roadrunner.com

#### Newsletter

Ken McWilliams  
(818) 718-8300 • internut@socal.rr.com

#### Audio/Visual

Pat Fitzgerald  
(818) 882-6314 • 390carguy@gmail.com

#### Social Media

Jess Ashby  
(540) 222-3321 • JessAshby@gmail.com

#### Biographies

Walt Pickett  
(562) 420-2536 • pickettlakewood@aol.com

#### Awards

George Gaglini  
(805) 256-4286 • georgegaglini@gmail.com

#### Door Prizes

Gary Girod  
(805) 649-2052 • jugagirod@roadrunner.com

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Ken McWilliams  
George Gaglini  
Mike Schmidt

www.nawcc-ch190.com

WEBMASTER

David Coatsworth  
dave@biswebdesign.com

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mostyn Gale

I hope that you all had a good holiday weekend—I have just returned from a vacation with friends in Maine—unfortunately, not all people share our same interest in clocks, so while there are many things of horological interest there, I was not able to take advantage of that on this trip. I was however able to stop in and visit a local clockmaker in Bar Harbor, Alexander Phillips. He has a lovely little shop not far from the town square and, as with most of the people in horology, he was a really nice guy and fun to talk to. He began in clock making in New York City and then moved to Bar Harbor to escape the hectic lifestyle—he has been there for 20 years and still loving it. He was more than happy to replace the screw in a pair of glasses for one of the friends that I was travelling with. If you are traveling, try to stop into the local clock/watch makers and say hi, you will probably be rewarded with a new friend.



Another trip that I took last month was to the annual conference of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) in Chicago. (And you thought NAWCC was a mouthful!) I presented my poster on Determining Manufacturing Dates for Clock Mainsprings and had the chance to compare notes with many other conservators from around the US and the world. I was hoping to hear about the conservation of the Great Historical Clock of America, but due to scheduling conflicts was not able to make it to the presentation. This clock is currently held by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, and conserved last year in preparation for an exhibition starting this month called American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith. If you are in Washington DC for a holiday this summer, you should make an attempt to see it.

While I was not able to see this presentation, the opportunity did lead me to look for information about it and other monumental clocks. My search began at the archive of past issues of the NAWCC Bulletin in the NAWCC library. I was able to find a nice article in the Feb 1990 issue which had as its focus, monumental clocks. This clock and the Engle Clock, now at the NAWCC museum in PA, are two of at least 18 American made clocks of similar stature. These back issues are one of the greatest resources we have as members of the NAWCC. I encourage you to use it frequently—it is a treasure trove of information for all those interested in learning more about any aspect of horology. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



## Happy Birthday

### July

Barb Barnes, Ron Palladino, Camille Schaezel,  
Steven Schechter, Mike Schmidt, Kathi Sheffrey.

### August

John Berney, Alan Bloore, Phil Caulfield, Jim Chamberlain,  
Fritz Fischer, Pat Fitzgerald, Bill Frank, Royce Hulsey,  
Ken McWilliams, Merl Meach, Ralph Napolitano.



*continued from page 1*

pin in tighter for its final fitting. It's best to leave some excess to the top of the pin to make it easier to handle. We will cut that excess off later.

Next, you will need one of the specialized tools shown below. All of these are designed to press the spring into place while the retention pin or screw is put in place. The double ended plier is easier to find and is probably the tool that you will have. When you place this inside the case ring and squeeze, it presses both springs into the case ring. It is for



this very reason that I prefer the other tool. I have had the opposite spring snap when using this double ended tool. The other two tools work on only one spring at a time by fitting against the outer part of the case ring. Make sure you use a piece of felt or leather on this part of the tool to prevent scratching the outside of the case.

Whichever tool you use, go ahead and press the spring into

place slowly until the holes line up. If you have a spring that is held in place with a screw, put the screw in. If you are using a pin, drop the pin in and press it down. Release the pressure on the pliers and your spring should stay in place. If you replaced the lift spring, check the action on the lid to make sure it feels right before trimming the pin. If you replaced the

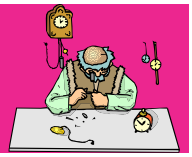


latch spring, make sure it travels the required distance to release the lid. Once you are convinced the action is correct, trim the pin flush with the case ring, using a wire cutter.

At this point, confirm that the lid opening action is correct. Do this with the bezel in place so you can see if there are any interference issues between the bezel and the spring(s). If the action is correct, remove the bezel again, replace the movement and then replace the bezel again. ■



## Clock Repair Tips



by David Sprong

**Shortening Screws** – Many clock applications require very short machine screws which are very difficult to find. So typically the screws that you can find need to be shortened. However, they are hard to hold after they are cut to smooth and square the cut-end of the screw. Without removal of the burr etc., the shortened screw is difficult to “start” in the tapped hole. To facilitate the shortening of screws, and finishing of the cut ends, I drill and tap a small piece of 0.020” thick sheet steel in a range of common sizes.



I insert the screw to be cut in the steel plate and snug it down. I do not tighten it a lot to avoid stripping out the threads. If the length allows for it, I use a nut to lock the screw against the plate. The photo shows a No. 4 screw and nut in the plate next to a No. 5 tapped hole.

Then, holding the free end of the screw in a vise, I cut the screw slightly longer than required. The end of the screw is then filed flat, square, and to length. I also chamfer the end of the screw and then finally I back the screw out of the plate until the end is just below the surface. This usually causes a burr to form where the thread runs out which I file off. ■

**This month's mini workshop  
begins at 11:00 A.M.**

**This is an open forum workshop, so bring your  
problem clock or watch and let the group help you.  
Don't let your clock problems baffle you,  
come and let our experts confuse you.**



# REPORT: NAWCC NATIONAL, ARLINGTON TX.

by Robert Gary

The new 2017 – 2019 NAWCC Board of Directors was seated at the National Convention in Arlington, TX, on June 27th and 28th. The new board members are: Robert Gary (CA), Leroy Baker (WI), John Cote (IN), Chris Miller (MO), and Philip Morris (AL).

The first order of business was to elect a new slate of Board officers. Rich Newman was elected Chair, Jay Holloway Vice-Chair, Leroy Baker Secretary, and Chris Miller was elected Treasurer.

The new Board has already begun the task of re-energizing the Board with emphasis placed on returning the Association to its core mission as directed in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws-Education. As such, the Mission Statement was updated in Arlington to be: *NAWCC's mission is to educate the world in the art and science of timekeeping.*

The Vision statement was revised to read: *NAWCC's vision is to be the premier educator in timekeeping and the preservation of timepieces.*

The Board appointed Jay Holloway to review each

Standing Committee to ensure that the Committees have appropriate direction from the Board on their duties, that the members of each Committee are active in the Committee's activities, and that all Committees are functioning as directed by the Board.

George Goolsby announced that he was stepping aside as Chair of the Development Committee. Robert Gary was appointed Chair of this Committee by the Board. Robert then appointed John Cote, fellow Board Member, and NAWCC member Jay Dutton as members of the Development Committee. Each of these members have extensive experience in fund raising for 501(c)(3) entities.

The exhibit at the National was a magnificent collection of Joseph Ives clocks, many one of a kind known still in existence. Never before, and probably never again, have so many rare Ives clocks been together in one location. Philip Morris gave a lecture on Joseph Ives and conducted in-depth tours of the Ives exhibit. Plans are now in the works to create a webinar-style presentation of the exhibit for viewing on-line.

*Photo credits go to George Goolsby with the exception of the peoples choice award photo, Sue Gary provided that one.* ■



**Joseph Ives  
clock exhibit**

**PEOPLES CHOICE**





# Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

## A CRAZY ESCAPEMENT

I thought I've seen most forms of escapements but on a Mailbox Clock I found a new design which has an interesting arrangement. At first glance it seems more complicated than it needs to be.



Normally (if there is such a thing), there is a complete separate platform escapement attached to the mechanism as in Carriage clocks, French clocks, or the escape wheel is protruding through a main plate and has a bridge on top of the plate. The pallet has its own lower bearing set into the plate and its own separate bridge or a bridge shared with the escape wheel. Then there is a lower jewel setting in the main plate for the balance with its own upper bridge holding it in place acting like a platform escapement without the lower plate.



**NORMAL PLATFORM ESCAPEMENT**

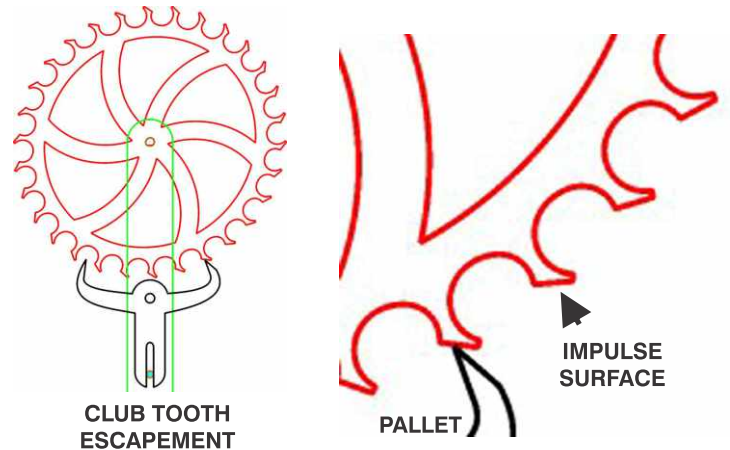
But in this design all the gears run between the plates, including the pallet. The pallet shaft protrudes through the back plate and its fork (working above the back plate) points towards the balance, which is secured by its own bridge. The pallet interacts with the escape wheel between the plates and with the balance through the fork above the back plate.



The balance has its own lower jewel setting in a small separate plate screwed onto the back plate. The balance bridge, with hairspring and regulator, is screwed into that. There is no adjustment.

The only adjustment is on the front plate for the pallet pivot by an eccentric bush, to adjust the depth of the pallet into the escape wheel.

One of the most unusual features of this clock is the escape wheel. It is a “club tooth” escape wheel, rarely seen in clocks. What makes this unique is; the impulse surface is on the escape wheel tooth, and not on the pallet. This arrangement is common on watches but not on typical clock movements.



But to its credit it works very well, now. ■



**Photo from May Meeting**



# FACES SEEN AT THE MAY MEETING

*Photos by Bill Robinson*





# Chapter 190 People

Interviewed by Walter Pickett

**The May Chapter 190 Meeting  
is July 16, 2017  
Sellers may start setting up at 11:30  
The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15  
The Meeting starts at 1:15**

***This Month's Program***

**"My Mayer bros. Street Clock"  
Presented by, Matt Bonaccorso**

**Bring a clock, watch, tool,  
book, or a good story to  
the meeting to share with  
your fellow members.**

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

*by Mike Schmidt*

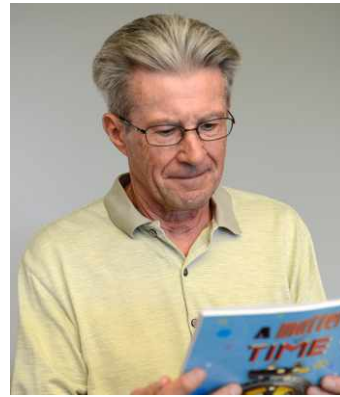
The Sunday morning workshops held prior to the monthly meetings are free and open to all. This is a great opportunity to learn many new repair techniques. It is an opportunity to bring clocks and watches and receive assistance with perplexing repair problems. Guests are always welcome. The workshop begins at 11:00 and the coffee will be on.

**"Introduction to Antique Clock Collecting, Repair & Maintenance # 12"** Open to members, friends and the public. The only prerequisite for this workshop is "Interest & Curiosity" in mechanical clocks. All tools, movements, and knowledge will be supplied. The next workshop is September/October 2017. *For further information, contact Mike Schmidt 805 988 1764 or email [EagleCreekClocks@msn.com](mailto:EagleCreekClocks@msn.com)*

**190-1A American Count Wheel 2 train movement Workshop** is scheduled for Nov. 4 & 5 2017. The workshop will be held at the Historic Odd Fellows Lodge in Santa Paula. Prerequisite is the "Introduction Workshop" or equivalent. The cost of this workshop is \$210. *Contact Mike Schmidt - email [EagleCreekClocks@msn.com](mailto:EagleCreekClocks@msn.com) for registration*

*All workshop information, registration and payments can be made thru the Chapter 190 Website or contact:*

***Mike Schmidt at e-mail  
[eaglecreekclocks@msn.com](mailto:eaglecreekclocks@msn.com)***



**John Swift**

*My name is John Swift. I am married to Donna, and we have no children. I grew up in Arkansas and have lived on the East Coast, the South, the Midwest and now California. We moved to California from Ohio in 1987. The housing sticker shock was very painful at the time.*

*I am a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a major in math. After school I began a career in the insurance industry as an actuary. I spent about 20 years in the reinsurance side of the business. I am now retired.*

*I started buying mechanical watches about 30 years ago but haven't bought any watches in the last 15 years or so. It seemed to me that the supply of older desirable watches started to dwindle and the prices of what was available began to rise. Plus, there is a limit to how many of these watches you can keep running and in good repair.*

*My hobbies include traveling, finding craft breweries, skiing and exercise. My wife and I belong to several Ventura County meetup groups.*

*I have been to only one NAWCC meeting so I haven't yet participated in any service activities.*



**CLOCKS DONATED BY  
KRIS CLARKIN.**



# CLASSIFIED PAGE

This page is dedicated to advertising for Chapter 190 members. It is, of course, free to members.

## SERVICES OFFERED

### **The Montecito Clock Gallery**

Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.  
**Ferdinand Geitner**, mbhi, owner and operator  
Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a  
Montecito (one block from old site)  
(805) 565-9097

### **The Clock Gallery**

**George Gaglini**

*Serving Ventura County and More . . .  
Expert Repair - Service - Restoration  
Grandfather - Wall - Mantel - Marine - Atmos  
House Calls - Packing & Moving  
805-647-0699 or 805-497-8381  
theclockgallery@roadrunner.com*

### *The Tic Toc Shop*

**Clock  
Repairs,  
Restorations  
& Appraisals.**

**Ken McWilliams  
(818) 718-8300**

**Jorge Montoya**

### **Complete Watch Service Center**

Repair & Restore all American & Swiss watches.  
12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a  
complete shop with all the latest equipment.  
(562) 531-0545 • (562) 688-6171  
E-mail: jorgemont2001@netzero.net

### **Pacific Coast Clocks**

**In business since 1977.**

Sales and Restoration of both new and antique  
clocks. Repair of all types of mechanical clocks.  
*Loren Miller* proprietor.

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca. 93003

(Located in Firehouse Plaza at Main St. and Telephone Rd)

Monday through Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 pm.

**Tel. 805-650-8800**

## FOR SALE

### **Watch Repair Tools & More!**

I will have a huge selection of watch repair  
tools and other items from my latest estate  
buy at the Chapter 190 meeting.

**Dave Coatsworth**

dave@daveswatchparts.com



### **MicroSet Timers for Clocks and Watches**

Precision electronic timing tools for clock and  
watch repair with many unique features. Prices  
start at \$250. Full information is on the website:

[www.WatchTimer.com](http://www.WatchTimer.com)

**Mumford Micro Systems  
3933 Antone Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 687-5116**

## WANTED

### **Reward**

#### **Wanted - Information**

Chapter 190 is looking to receive any information Regarding the  
present location of the Ventura County Courthouse Clock. The Seth  
Thomas model 15 clock was installed in the 1875 courthouse in  
1900. The last sighting of this clock and its bell was a display at the  
1987 NAWCC National Convention at Anaheim.

**Contact Mike Schmidt at: eaglecreekclocks@msn.com**

#### **URGENTLY NEEDED, VISIBLE ESCAPEMENT MOVEMENT**

French type-platform escapement (no pendulum)

Winding hole spacing of 38.9 mm, (1.53")

Repairable, other details available on request.

Bob Reichel, welchdoc@yahoo.com **Ph: 1-206-364-7374**

#### **- Chronometer -**

Hamilton 21 Marine Chronometer in running condition, with  
inner box and gimbals; outer box not essential.

Please contact: Giorgio Perissinotto

E-mail: [giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu](mailto:giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu)

*Antique French* 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.

*Antique English* 2 or 3 gear-train skeleton clock.

Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

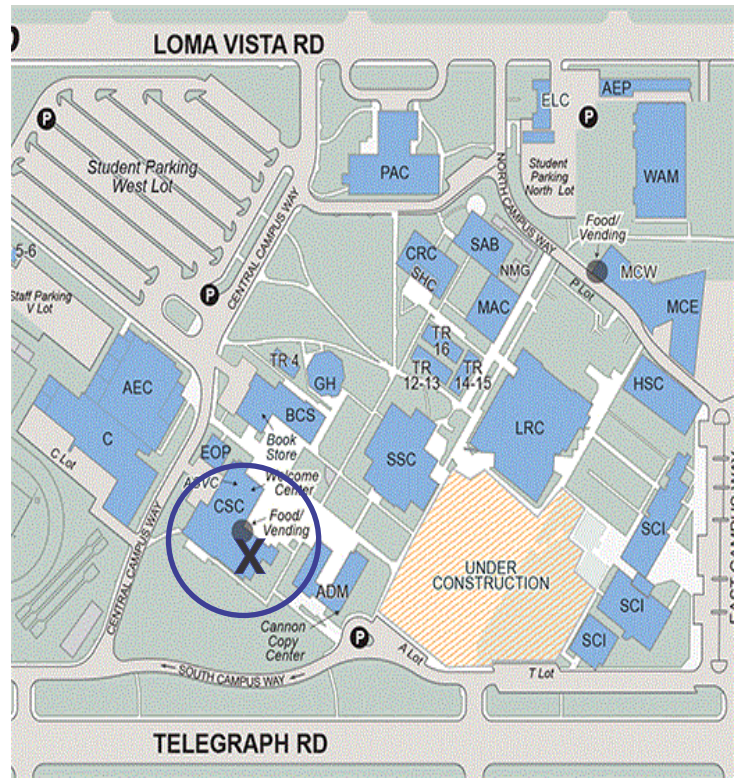
4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca.

Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.)

**Tel. 805-650-8800**



The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)  
 We will meet in the Campus Student Center (CSC) on the Ventura College campus. The CSC is located in building "B", east of the gym and



*July - August 2017 Issue*

**NEXT MEETINGS**  
**JULY 16**  
 T  
**AUGUST 20**



If Undeliverable return To:  
 17738 Superior St. Unit 21  
 Northridge, CA 91325

**Chrono Times**