

Pacific
Northwest
Portland
Oregon

www.nawcc31.org



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MARCH 2011



Well, the winter is almost through, or at least I hope so. I realized that the new month just March-ed right in and each day I see a little more sunlight lasting a few more minutes. Yes, daylight savings time is coming soon.....March 13 to be exact. As I was perusing the Internet to check on the day it would grace our lives I came across a website, <http://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/2011.html>.

If you are unsure if, or when each country changes to daylight savings or standard time this is a pretty interesting site. I never realized that some country's change to DLS at different days of the year. Oh, yes! I think that means that I am a colonialist as I think the world turns by each step the good ole USA makes. Naw! It just means that I learned another tidbit of trivia, and now you do too.

So, all of this to remind you to Spring forward on March 13th!

I have been waiting for responses from the different PNW NAWCC chapters to see which one would be willing to host the multi-chapter this fall. As yet, I have received two "don't have enough people to host" and no response from others. If a chapter 31 member would be interested in heading up this event for Sept. 2011, I would be ecstatic!!! Our chapter has many willing helpers, but a leader is needed and a topic/speaker as well.

Would you be interested in this challenge? I hope so! Please contact me by email or phone and I will be your first volunteer in this event. **I know what you're thinking..... "I have never done anything like this before"**! Well, neither had I until last fall and put it together by the seat of my slacks, so why not give it a try?

So in parting here are my reminders-

- *Don't forget to 'Spring forward' March 13th!*
- *Please call/email if you would like to organize a multi-chapter this fall.*
- *Have you remembered to mail your national ballot in? Let your voice be heard! VOTE!*
- *Have you mailed in your registration yet??? What are you waiting for????? MAIL IT TODAY!!!*
- *I hope to see you Sunday, March 20th at the Beaverton Library Mart 2pm, Meeting @2:30 with Tom Hammond speaking.*

Mary Gonzalez, President, Ch. 31



Time- Out Mart

A place for

- For Sale
- Wanted
- Trade

Send your copy to

webmaster@nawcc31.org



NAWCC31 Facebook page. It is the perfect place to upload photos of our events, our favorite clocks and watches and to chat with each other on club, clock or watch subjects. Please check it out and become a friend.



Temporary address

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Association-of-Watch-Clock-Collectors-Chapter-31/169137766455180?ref=sgm>

CLUB EVENTS

Date	Time	Description
Mar 20, 2011	2pm Mart 2:30 Meeting	<p>Monthly Meeting, Beaverton Library 12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton, OR 97055</p> <p>Program: Making a Regulator by Tom Hammond</p> <p>Tom Hammond will be sharing with us his project of making a "watchmaker's regulator", essentially a simple timepiece with deadbeat escapement, an Invar seconds-beating pendulum supported by a cast-iron backplate, and no motion works hence three separate subdials. Tom will share with you changes made to the original plans and construction techniques, including uncommon ones such as milling the escape wheel from titanium. General information about amateur clock making will also be covered.</p>
Apr 17, 2011	2pm Mart 2:30 Meeting	<p>Monthly Meeting, Beaverton Library 12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton, OR 97055</p> <p>April, 2010 at the Beaverton Library: Program by Stephen Nelson</p> <p>One of his recent shipments of clocks from Austria contained two rather special examples of what are commonly-called "Vienna Regulators". While both are floor-standing clocks (Bodenstanduhren in German) and both run for longer than a week (making them long duration clocks), they differ in one very interesting, & important way: One is Austrian, hence a "Vienna regulator", the other is German, made in Vienna-style by Gustav Becker. His presentation will focus on their similarities, as well as their differences, and hopefully provides a simplistic understanding of the social and economic realities behind their development."</p>
May 19-22, 2011	See Flyer	<p>Pacific North West Regional Show, Portland Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave Clackamas, OR 97015 Flyer</p> <p>No Chapter 31 meeting this month.</p>

REGIONAL PLANNING MEETING

The March 2011 Regional Planning Meeting will be held at 1:00 PM Sunday March 20th at the Beaverton Library, please plan to attend. Following the planning meeting will be our regular 3rd Sunday Chapter 31 meeting. If we are unable to finish the planning meeting before the regular chapter meeting, please plan to stay after to finish the business.

See you there!

Terry White,
2011 Regional Chair

PEGGING PIVOTS

Stephen Nelson for www.snclocks.com

So, how do you clean pivot holes? I was taught to get some peg wood (often tooth picks), taper the end with a knife, then twirl the pointy end in each pivot hole, re-sharpen when the taper was dirty (or when it broke off in one of those really small holes), and repeat until it came out of each hole clean. I have done a lot of this, but will admit, on any hole larger than say, an eighth of an inch (3 mm for those that are not metrically challenged), it took some real effort to get the holes clean. Enough effort that I have blistered my fingers pegging mechanisms. More than once actually.

Which, quite naturally, brings us to the subject of this tech tid bit. I have found that nothing matches how easy it is to peg pivot holes with a tapered dowel in a wood lathe. It is pretty easy to taper a peg to perfection with a skew chisel, the lathe does the spinning, and you can even polish the inside of the largest holes (like the ones the posts pin into) with a smaller dowel. And, if you don't have a wood workers lathe, well, you can also use a watch makers lathe, or one of the micro machines – like the Sherlines or the Unimats. And, if you aren't into using turning tools to taper dowels, well, you can always just use a pencil sharpener to taper the dowels.

Safety first. Wood lathes are often rather powerful, and they can spin up to rather high speeds – I am convinced my Myford Maestro turns at a gazillion rpm at its highest speed. Fortunately, we are using very small dowels (I use 5/16 inch and smaller diameter dowels) and we don't need to turn all that fast. But, when using a wood lathe, as with any lathe, there are some pretty obvious rules you should follow:

-Don't wear gloves (they can catch all too easily on a chuck or on the spinning piece of wood with rather dramatic results)

-Don't wear loose fitting clothing that can get caught on the chuck or the spinning piece of wood.

-Do wear some form of eye protection.

-Do let the lathe do the work – don't push very hard on the tapered dowel spinning in the lathe – let the edges of the pivot hole cut away part of the dowel while you are putting only moderate pressure on the part being pegged. This will make it a lot easier to get out broken off tips of the tapered dowel when they break off in the hole.

-Don't ever, ever, ever leave chuck keys in the chuck when you take your hand away from the key. Always

remove the key unless you are in the process of either opening or closing the chuck.

I shot a number of photo's of some recent pegging, including the pivot hole in a typical Vienna Regulator pulley, as well as the holes in parts from an Elliott 9 tube Hall clock mechanism. Go to http://snclocks.smugmug.com/gallery/7179906_nBrDh/2/460928159_SXRE#P-1-12 to check out the photo's.

Some general comments:

- The more gradual the taper, the more effective you will be in polishing holes. And, the more chances you will have to cut tapers with your skew chisel!

- If you polish the plates and other bits with Brasso or an equivalent polishing compound before pegging, you will be able to readily tell which holes you have done and which await polishing. And, the small amount of polishing compound that hides in the holes after polishing the plates will aid in polishing the inside of the pivot holes.

- You can cut grooves in the dowel and use it to polish unusual holes – the example I show is a large view hole through a plate that is beveled on both sides. I cut a groove in the dowel to polish the beveled edges.

- You can also effectively polish the insides of large holes, like those for the pillars in mechanism plates, with a smaller diameter dowel by carefully shifting the plate from side to side, and up and down, while polishing with the smaller diameter dowel. This is shown in one of the pictures on my smugmug site (link above).

- I find that I can effectively polish the inside of pivot holes down to around 1.5 mm on the wood lathe. Smaller than that and I really have to use a sharpened tooth pick or the like.

- I also find that, when I do break off the tip of a dowel that was spun by the lathe, that it comes out

more readily than those I have broken off when I am pegging by hand. Hopefully this is because I am not pressing too hard when pegging on the lathe.

- If a pivot hole is proving hard to clean up – it is easy to apply a small amount of jewelers rouge to the tapered dowel and use the “rouged” dowel to polish the inside of the hole. When I am doing this I first “size” the peg by running it into the hole and cutting a shoulder on the peg by pushing the work piece into the peg. These shoulders are shown very well on several of the pictures on my smugmug site. Then, I apply the rouge to the shoulder, so that the polishing compound is being applied by a cylinder, thereby polishing the inside of the hole, but not tapering it, as it might if you just applied the rouge to the tapered dowel. But, whether you use rouge or not, always keep pegging with clean tapers until the peg wood comes out of the hole clean.

- Do all of the holes, including the inside of the weight pulleys, the inside of the gear wheels that rotate in the winding drum arbors, all of the pivot holes in bridges, and the holes in the fans on the strike trains. I will even cut a special taper so I can clean/polish the inside of the hour cannon.

- I always run the plates and other pegged parts through my cleaning solution in an ultrasound tank after pegging to get rid of any finger prints on the plates and any residual wood dust or polishing compound.

- When you apply pressure to force the spinning peg deeper into the pivot hole, the edges of the hole shear off some of the wood, forming a collar, which can be used to effectively polish the oil sink. A nice, two for one benefit.

In as much as I hope, some day, to get the NAWCC to publish some of these tid bits in the Bulletin, please let me know if you see any problems with this or any tid bit. Or have any suggestions to make these techniques more effective.

Stephen Nelson for www.snclocks.com

WANTED

Hi I am the Mart Chairman, Mark DeAtley. The Chapter is looking for volunteers to red cap at the upcoming regional in May. Red caps assist table holders with packing in and out and tending the display, and mart central area. We are busiest during setup on Thur. and when the public will attend on Sat. Please contact Mark DeAtley at clockymark@hotmail.com if you would like to help. Thank you for the help, Mark

Black Forest Wooden Movements

Originally printed in the June 1986 edition of the Chapter 75 Regulator.

with Newton G. Noell

THE PEOPLE of the Black Forest in southwestern Germany made wooden clock movements on a cottage-craft industry basis from the mid 1600's well into this century. Bass and beech woods were the more commonly used materials. In all but the earliest types, wheels, pinions, and striking levers were metal.

The types most commonly seen today have a "boxed" frame, consisting of solid top and bottom plates separated by rectangular crosssection posts at or near the four corners. These corner posts were wedge-mortised into the top and bottom plates, thus this much of the frame could not be disassembled. Strike lever and hammer arbors operate in notches in the corner posts, being retained by short lengths of wire toe-nailed into the wood. Oftentimes a thin strip of brass is tacked over these notches.

I have seen some of these clocks with the time train in front and strike train to the rear, while others have the trains in a more conventional side-by-side layout. The vertical wood strips which carry the train wheel pivots have one end set loose into a blind mortise in the lower plate, while the upper end is retained by a wire pin or nail

in a slotted blind mortise in the upper plate. This arrangement permits disassembly of the trains for cleaning and repair. Pivot holes were bushed with split bushings formed from scraps of sheet brass, and these were simply driven into holes drilled into the wood.

The majority of these movements were 30-hour pull-up chain wound types, wail hung. They were used in cuckoo clocks, many types of wall cases, and even in grandfather styles. Some had simple alarm mechanisms. I have one which is spring driven with fusees on both trains, and have seen a couple of eight-day, key-wound, weightdriven versions in American cherry grandfather cases which were definitely all original. Evidently some of their makers migrated to this country. I have one 30 hour wag-on-the-wall which has full grand sonnerie striking, and does it all with only two gear trains!

These clocks are subject to the same ills as any others, plus a few that are uniquely their own. When hung on the wall in the fashion usually provided for, the pull of the weights would often wrack the frame out of shape, binding the pivots and stopping the clock. Thus one

should make sure that the frame is square and parallel, and securely put together. Supporting the frame on a bracket from the wall is always a good idea. Some makers tried to obviate this problem by giving their pivots an ellipsoidal rather than cylindrical - shape. They literally look like tiny footballs or eggs on the ends of the arbors. While such an approach permitted the frame to wrack without binding the pivots, it created another problem. Such a pivot can wear a bushing so that the wear is almost impossible to detect! The problem is similar to that caused by short pivots that don't come all the way through their pivot holes; however in this case the bushing is worn in the center of its length, but both ends look to be round and unworn.

Another unique problem is relative crudity of the original workmanship in these clocks. Crude workmanship, whether original or due to subsequent repairs, always

poses a quandary for the modern restorer. Did the clock run or not - because of it, or in spite of it? Just how much of it should be corrected, and how much left alone'?

In making these decisions, the clockmaker experiences the severest test of his knowledge, skill, and experience. Any highly skilled clock maker or machinist can make any or all of the parts for a clock, put them together, and make it run, but it would be a new clock. The charm and conversation value, yes, even the monetary value, of an old piece lie in the fact that it is old and crudely made, has had a long and frequently abused life, and yet is still giving faithful service. The best and wisest restorers, those most in demand at any price, are those who can leave things most nearly as they found them, yet bring the piece back to reliable working condition. This is an art not easily acquired, and worth most any price its possessor wishes to ask.

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