



## Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

Sometimes if a person is lucky they may come across a very special timepiece, with some interesting challenges.

As you can see from the pictures I'm talking of a Mystery Clock. Possibly of Cartier origin made out of red Marble, Lapislazulie, Quartz, Obsidian, Platinum, Diamonds and Opal.

It is a real Mystery clock as the mechanism is in the base and the hands are floating freely in a Marble frame at the top of clear quartz pillars. Not just one hand but Platinum Hour and Minute hands, set with diamonds, on top of each other. The mechanism is an original in itself, custom made, with a complex sliding section for setting the time through a retractable knob at the front which blends into the ornate design hiding its function. The other part of the design can be tilted to reveal the winding arbor. **So how does it work???**

There has to be a connection between the movement and the hands and it is almost invisible, even when one takes the clock apart. A thin (and I mean very thin) 0.3mm hardened steel wire goes through an equally tiny hole inside a metal strip mounted as a decoration outside the quartz pillar holding the Dial frame and hand mechanism. It is connected at the bottom with a very small screw to a small 1/4" wheel, secured inside to the clock base by a bridge.

The Movement is secured to the inside of the base with 6 screws and has to be aligned perfectly with the wheel on the wire otherwise it will lock up and stop.

At the top of the wire are two small interlocking steel plugs (see picture). One is screwed (yes another very small screw) onto the wire and the other one is part of a worm gear that drives the motion works, turning one glass disk one revolution per hour and the other one a twelfth of an hour.

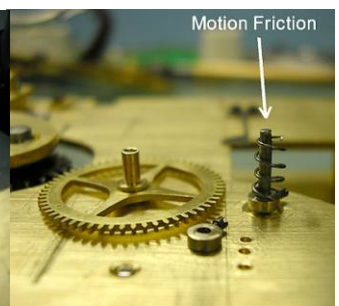
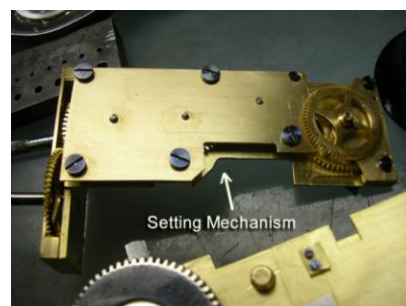
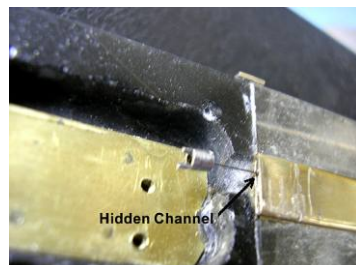


A wheel protruding from the main mechanism, engaging with the wheel driving the wire to the hands, is secured by a friction spring so one can set the hands.

A separate mechanism with beveled gears is mounted in a frame on top of the main mechanism so one can slide it into contact with the driving wheel and set the hands via the decorative knob at the front of the clock.

It is apparent that there are a lot of variables and some delicate connections operating in this clock. One problem became apparent when winding the clock. If one held the clock by the quartz pillars there was some movement of the pillar possible that would affect the alignment of the connecting wire attached to the base and stop the clock. There were no pins aligning or positioning the parts so everything had to be aligned individually and secured as best as possible. Tightening the locking nuts for the pillars was not a good idea as it could damage the thin sheet of Lapislazulie covering the brass case.

I have found a solution from restoring French Movements mounted in valuable China cases. One cannot tighten the case screws too much as the china would crack but if they are too loose, the brass movement turns on the slippery china, gets out of beat and stops. Applying a thin layer of clear silicone to the touching surfaces and letting them set completely before joining them acts like an invisible rubber washer and stops things from sliding and requires very little pressure.



## Officers and Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

**Mike Schmidt**

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

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Ken McWilliams**

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

### SECRETARY

**Paul Skeels**

(805) 525-7325 • plskeelsatty@verizon.net

### TREASURER

**Dona Gaglini**

(805) 497-8381 • gfgaglini@adelphia.net

### DIRECTOR • Historian

**Richard Henderson**

(805) 649-4138 • pobjude@pacbell.net

### DIRECTOR • Meeting Mart

#### Audio/Visual

**William Robinson**

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

### DIRECTOR • Membership

**George Gaglini**

(805) 497-8381 • gfgaglini@adelphia.net

### DIRECTOR • Education

**Ferdinand Geitner**

(805) 565-9097

### DIRECTOR • Hospitality

**Dutch & Dorothy Friou**

(805) 985-6438 • dmottar@yahoo.com

### DIRECTOR • Door Prizes

**David Rubright**

(805) 484-5580 • dgrubright@verizon.net

### EDITOR

**Ken McWilliams**

### Web Site:

[www.nawcc-ch190.com](http://www.nawcc-ch190.com)

### WEBMASTER

**David Coatsworth**

[dave@biswebdesign.com](mailto:dave@biswebdesign.com)

E-Mail For Newsletter:  
[internut@socal.rr.com](mailto:internut@socal.rr.com)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

“Old Clocks & Watches & Planes... Oh My!”

The First Annual Clock & Watch Mart has sold over 40 tables. The anticipation is growing as we look forward to a sellout of all 67 tables. NAWCC members are coming from many different areas of California to participate. President Steve Mott and members of Los Padres Chapter 52 have purchased tables and have graciously offered help with the Mart. The Clock and Watch Mart in Ventura County is receiving publicity and recognition. It will be a “Go to Event” for Sunday May 18th. Chairman Wayne Callaway and the Mart committee are organizing and preparing for a great event. There will be an interesting clock exhibit and short video program for attendees. The Mart admission includes a tour of the Commemorative Air Force WWII Aviation Museum. There will be knowledgeable docents available during the Mart. One of the many interesting airplanes to see in the museum is a Japanese Zero. There are only three of these fighter planes still in existence.



The Dreger clock restoration project for Chapter 75 and 190 is on hold until a suitable worksite is located. Any help in this endeavor will be appreciated. Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you a site will be found.

The FSW 201 Lathe class scheduled for June 6-9 has one opening. If you would like to attend the lathe class contact Coordinator Paul Skeels. 805 525 7325-Email plskeelsatty@verizon.net. The FSW 200 Fundamental Skills class is to be rescheduled for fall 2008. If you would like to attend contact Coordinator Mike Schmidt 805 988 1764 Email EagleCreekClocks@msn.com. A FSW 101 is in the planning for October 2008. This is the beginning clock repair class with no prerequisites. If you are interested contact coordinator Alan Davis- 805 659 7148-Email jesoda.1@netzero.net

The workshop for Sunday April 20 at 10:30 AM will be “Restoration of Worn Pallets“.

The workshops have been very well attended. We have 15 to 18 members and guests in roundtable discussions. We all learn a lot from each other. Bring your clock and watch questions and join in the fun.

The monthly meeting mart can be a bit deceiving. It sometimes seem like not much is happening. But you never know when or what horological items are going to appear. At our last meeting three different guests arrived with a nice selection of watches. They brought quality pocket watches and some very collectable wristwatches. This resulted in some happy buyers and sellers. Another observation is that with lunch and the social time of the monthly mart a lot of horological information is exchanged. This results in repair and restoration problems being solved and future clock and watch transactions taking place.

The Show and Tell for this month will be. Electric Battery Clocks and anything you find interesting to share.

See you all at the meeting.

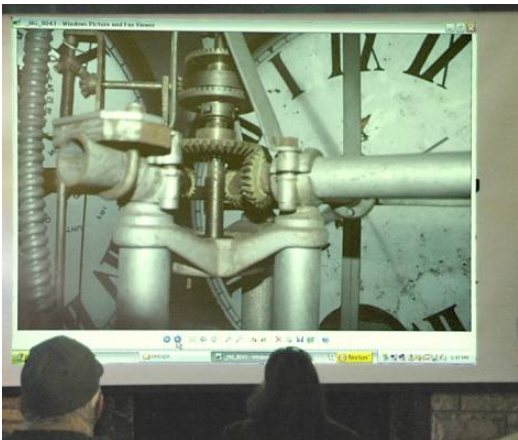
Mike



## Happy Birthday

**Terry Flynn, Donna Gaglin, Clara Jackson,  
Loren Miller, Phillip Sandoz & Larry Smith**

# Faces from our March Meeting



## BUYING A NEW WRISTWATCH PART 2

by Henri Bonnet

*This is a two part article, describing how the average person might go about purchasing a new quality mens mechanical wristwatch. Part 1 addressed appearance related issues, (March issue) while part 2 discusses technology and sources .*

Now that most issues of appearance have been discussed in the first of this two part article, let's review the wristwatch movement as well as the choice of manufacturers. The safest route to long term satisfaction is to get a watch with a proven movement of long standing quality and performance. This recommendation, however, is not always easy to follow without considerable technical knowledge, which is seldom available to the average buyer. Here, appropriate advice from a knowledgeable person may be invaluable to the uninitiated. To the extent possible one should avoid the type of movements that cannot be readily serviced and adjusted by a local watchmaker. A wristwatch that can be serviced only at the factory or at an authorized service center is to be avoided.

A good movement, with a Swiss lever escapement, is the most tested and the most proven type, and with some exceptions, is the easiest to service and adjust. A swan neck micrometric regulator is a nice addition if available. How many jewels are necessary to produce a quality movement? Anything between seventeen and twenty one jewels is all that is needed to satisfy the accuracy requirements of most quality men wristwatches.

Does the wristwatch need to be self winding? An automatic movement is very desirable, but not necessarily a must. There are some people who derive pleasure in manually rewinding their wristwatch every day. Obviously, if you think that you may forget to rewind your wristwatch, a self winding movement is to be preferred. An automatic movement is likely to provide more uniform winding, thus contributing to greater accuracy. How accurate need a mechanical wristwatch be? No doubts, here the more accurate the better, but there are limits to what is technologically possible. No mechanical wristwatch can beat the accuracy of an electronic one. All else being equal, a movement with a frequency of 5 Hz (36,000 beats per hour) is likely to be more accurate than, say, a movement with a beat rate of (18,000 beats per hour.) A 3 Hz (21,600 beats per hour) movement is very common in high grade quality wristwatches, and seems to be a good compromise. Another high frequency movement is a 4 Hz (28,800 beats per hour), which is also quite popular and likely to be found in some of the higher grade wristwatches. There is nothing wrong with a mechanical wristwatch that needs to be reset once a months, or so.

To make this review more complete, let's discuss who might be the manufacturers most likely to produce mechanical wristwatches fitting the requirements that we've described above. With very few exceptions, there is no question that the Swiss, generally speaking, are producing the best mechanical wristwatches in the world. There are many good names to choose from, however, the best value in term of quality versus cost is most likely to be found in known brands such as: Omega, Longinus, Yeager Le Coultre and International Watch Company (IWC). Watches made by these firms are likely to be somewhat pricier than those of lesser known Swiss manufacturers. Some Swiss and German brands such as: Oris, Junghans, Doxa, Nomos, Mido, Union, and Revue Thommen, among others, are known to produce excellent timepieces at affordable cost. Many Swiss wristwatches, as well as others, are fitted with mass produced ETA movements, or modified ETA movements. These high quality Swiss movements come in several grades and have a proven track record. Over tens of millions of them have been produced and sold throughout the world over the past twenty years. Several high grade watch manufacturers have been known to use modified ETA movements in some of their wristwatches. How much should one pay for a good quality mechanical Swiss wristwatch? In this day and age one would be hard pressed to find a quality Swiss timepiece for less than \$ 2,000. However, much better deals may be available from the lesser known watch brands. The problem is that their products may be difficult to find, or may not be sold in this country altogether

For the purpose of this review I will leave out Japanese manufacturers, some of which have been known to produce excellent mechanical timepieces.

Finally, where is the best place for the average buyer to go to in order to purchase a quality men's wristwatch? Since, for most people, the purchase of a quality mechanical wristwatch is not an "everyday" matter, it is best to choose a local retailer who sells wristwatches exclusively, and who is likely to give the buyer proper personal attention. Usually, a reputable watch retailer is likely to be the most knowledgeable and carries the largest inventory of quality products. In addition, after sale service, if needed, might be easier to come by from such a retailer, to say nothing about honoring the warrantee with the least possible hassle. Attempting to "save" money, by buying on line or from a mass merchandiser, may end up being a losing proposition. Counterfeit timepieces have been known to creep into less than secure sources. The careful and judicious purchase of a quality mechanical wristwatch will go a long way at insuring long term satisfaction, and who knows, such a timepiece may even become a heirloom or a collector's item. Good hunting and good luck!

***See watch photos on page five.***



1. Omega, simple Swiss lever escapement movement, durable, serviceable.
2. Omega Constellation Chronometer, simple, attractive, stood the test of time.
3. Nomos, German made, well proportioned square, modified ETA movement.
4. Oris, well proportioned rectangular, gold plated, slightly curved case.
5. Longines Ultra-Chron, 36,000 beats per hour movement, extremely accurate.
6. Patek Philippe, ideal proportions, legibility and quality. Dia 33mm by 8mm thick.
7. Yang Cheng. Chinese made, very attractive, unfortunately not sold in the USA.
8. Eterna Matic, in stainless. Well proportioned, legible, with magnified date window.
9. Bulova 14k gold, small automatic, very legible, simple, attractive and inexpensive.
10. Hamilton from the forties in 14k gold, with a wonderful Hamilton movement.

## STAGECOACH INN ANTIQUE FAIRE

### The Conejo Valley Historical Society

will hold its annual Antiques Faire  
*Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*  
 at the Stagecoach Inn Museum  
 51 S. Ventu Park, Newbury Park CA 91320.

The show and sale features antiques, art and collectibles, including silver, china, crystal and other tableware; jewelry and vintage clothing; kitchen items; toys; furniture; clocks and watches; books and primitives.

**Booth space is still available (\$50)**  
 contact Lou at (805) 487-3364.

Authorities on antiques will present lectures on various subjects.  
 Evaluations by knowledgeable experts are \$5 per item.

Bring those family treasures that you want to know more about!

*For information, call the museum at (805) 498-9441.*

## GOODTYME SUPERMART

Sponsored by NAWCC Chapter 69

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

1320 Sanderson Ave. Anaheim CA

For information call Dave Weisbart at (714) 891-9906  
 or visit our website and download flyer & registration form.

[www.nawcc69.org](http://www.nawcc69.org)

## Chapter 75 of the NAWCC

Presents The

### 2007 Watch & Clock Mini-Mart

(The Mart is Open To Current Members Of The NAWCC & Their Guest)

★ OVER 70 TABLES ★  
 ★ TOOLS ★  
 ★ CONSIGNMENT TABLES ★  
 ★ CLOCKS ★  
 ★ WATCHES ★  
 ★ BOOKS ★



★ SOFT DRINKS ★  
 ★ SNACKS ★  
 ★ FREE PARKING ★  
 ★ FREE COFFEE ★  
 ★ HOT DOGS ★

**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008**

**"The Biggest Little Mart Around"**

**Still a few tables available, but hurry, this is always a sellout**

**Mart Director: Toni Moss**

Phone: (818) 407-1474

E-mail: [tdolls@aol.com](mailto:tdolls@aol.com)

**ADMISSION: \$5.00**

**TABLES: \$10.00**



**DON'T FORGET! OUR FIRST ANNUAL  
ANTIQUA CLOCK & WATCH MART  
IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.**

**Sunday, May 18th, 2008**

At the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) hanger  
located in the Camarillo Airport, Camarillo, CA

Mart admission includes a tour of the WWII  
aircraft museum and restored planes.

**Mart Questions?  
Call: 805 384-1936 or,  
www.nawcc-ch190.com**

**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190**

**Will be March 16, 2008**

**Sellers may start setting up at 11:30**

**The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15**

**The Meeting starts at 1:15**

**PROGRAM**

**"Weight Driven Battery Clocks "**

Presented by Bill Robinson

*Bill will explain how these rare and fascinating  
clocks work. He will also bring some for us to observe.*

**SHOW & TELL**

**"Electric Battery Clocks"**

*If it runs on a battery and isn't quartz,  
bring it in to share.*

*Welcome New Members*

**Sue and Wally Brown,  
Jessica Davis, Geri Smith**

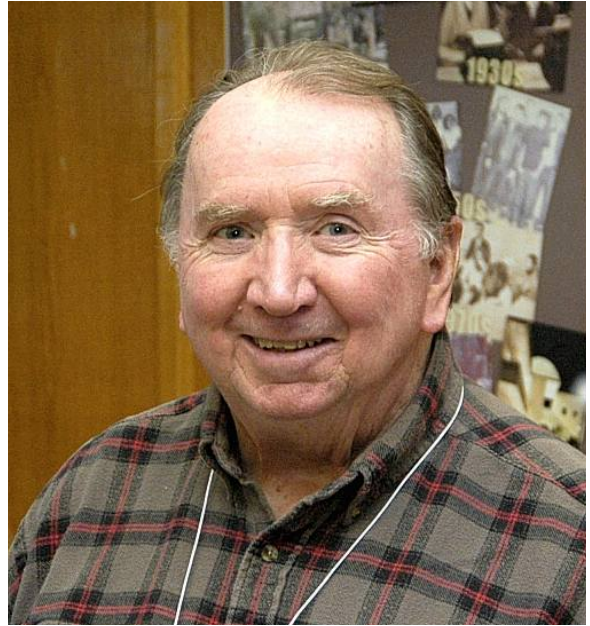


## Ventura Chapter 190 people

Each issue of our newsletter will feature members of our chapter with a short biography or some of their horological interests to help us get to know them better.

### *John Berney*

By George Gaglini



With his Engineering degree from the University of Illinois, John Berney embarked, right out of college, on a career in Aerospace, specializing in computer applications. The work brought him to California by way of Chicago, where he was born and raised, and New York.

After many years of working for large companies, John and his wife, Rina, began searching in California for a business they could buy; something of their own. Soon they discovered and purchased Jori Resources, a manufacturing company producing, among other products, tungsten filaments used in the application of micro-thin coatings on smooth surfaces such as camera lenses and related optics. In the thirty-odd years since it was purchased, Jori Resources moved from Goleta, its place of origin, to Ventura for a short while, then to Thousand Oaks where it operates today.

This little company, nestled in the Conejo Valley, serves customers all over the world in countries such as China, Singapore, Great Britain and Scotland. In Rina's words, "John runs the place."

After buying his first clock at a garage sale John learned a valuable lesson in clock repair when he disassembling it without first letting down the main spring. Something we usually do once.

John discovered NAWCC and joined Chapter #75. At Chapter meetings he traded ideas and stories with its members and re-kindled the interest he always has nurtured for clocks, watches and other small mechanical devices. He was delighted to join Chapter #190 last year and attended its recent pocket watch course. He intends to expand his collection of chiming clocks and take part in future Chapter sponsored courses including those on clock and watch repair.

# 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***

Serving All of Ventura County

Precision Repair - Service - Restoration

Grandfather - Wall - Mantel - Marine Clocks

House Calls • Packing & Moving

**805-497-8381 or 805-647-0699**

e-mail: [theclockgallery@adelphia.net](mailto:theclockgallery@adelphia.net)

**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](mailto: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

---

### ***Magnificent Herschede***

#### ***Five Tubular Bell Hall Clock.***

Eight feet tall with three inch full columns on a solid  
mahogany case. Gold-plated dial with hand painted  
moon phase indicator. Recently professionally  
serviced.

***Runs & Looks Perfect.*** \$5,000

Call George Gaglini **805-647-6463**

**NEW**

### **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](mailto:welchdoc@yahoo.com) **Ph: 1-206-364-7374**

I'm looking for a five inch  
piecrust bezel for an Ansonia clock.

Contact:

Tom McKnett  
805-444-6383

***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**

---

## WANTED

---

### **- 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)

*(I'm teaching in Spain so there is no local California phone)*

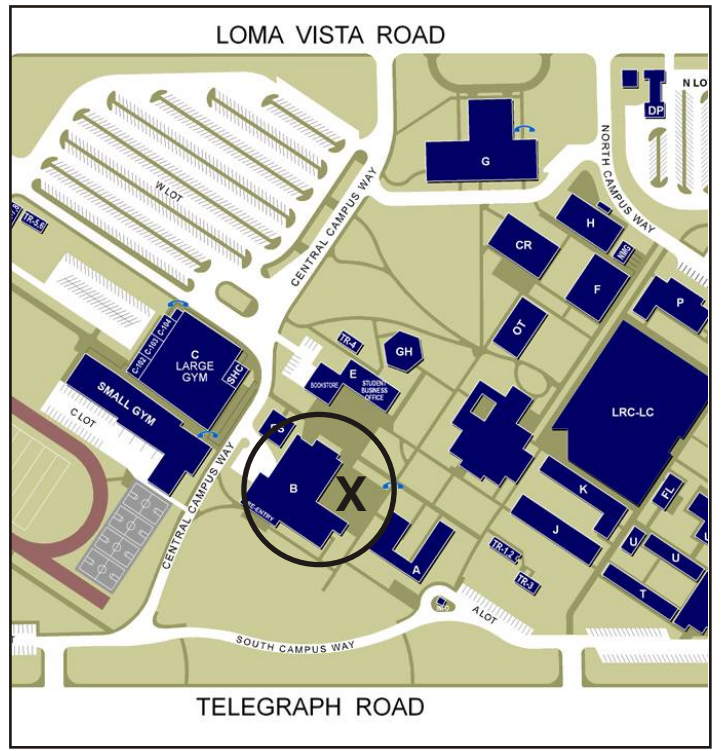
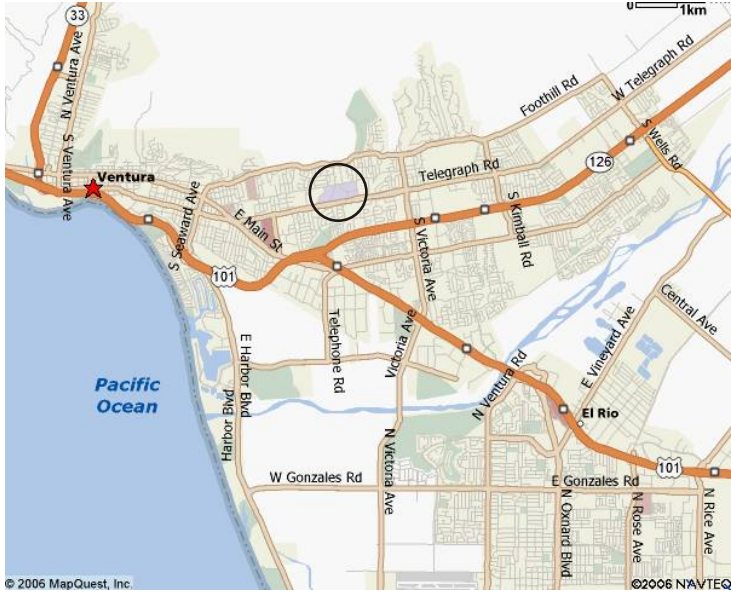
### **- Watch Repair Tools -**

I'm just starting out and need just about everything.  
I would prefer to purchase an entire collection of old  
watchmaker's tools.

Please contact:

*David Clarkin* **Tel: 805-988-4384**

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



*Hope to see you there!*

**April 2008 Issue**

**APRIL 20**  
**NEXT MEETING**

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