



THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF CHAPTER 190

Our first meeting went very well with only a few minor glitches. (We couldn't turn off the heat and had to open all the doors on a very windy day) The school promises us that this won't happen again. Some people had a difficult time finding us. We will add more signs to help with directions.

If you missed the last meeting, make sure you reserve Sunday, February 18th for us. Got something to sell? Bring it along, no charge for members. Got something interesting? Bring it along, and share it at show and tell. Got a friend? Bring it along. . . well you get the idea. This is your club, enjoy it, and let us enjoy the pleasure of your company.

Editor



Donuts, coffee, punch, conversation -- life is good.



Ready for the buyers.



Mike, greeting members as they sign in.



Looking for that "special" item.

Congratulations Founding Members, You Are Now Part of History!

GEORGE ANTINARELLI
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PAUL BARINA
HENRI BONNET
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WAYNE CALLAWAY
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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

Beverly Schmidt (Acting)

(805) 988-1764

TREASURER

Dona Gaglini

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

DIRECTOR • Public Relations

Robert Gary

(805) 388-1694 • homepromousa@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR • Mart

William Robinson

(805) 642-7329 • whrobi@adelphia.net

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 • Legal Advisor

Paul Skeels

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

EDITOR

Ken McWilliams

Web Site:

www.nawcc-ch190.com

WEBMASTER

David Coatsworth

dave@biswebdesign.com

E-Mail For Newsletter:
internut@socal.rr.com

One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world. Old Jewish Proverb

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

Congratulations to all founding members. Chapter 190 is up and running with great gusto. I thank you all for making our first meeting a success. We had 70 attendees participate in all activities. The mart went very well with a good number of sellers and buyers with lots of transactions. The program on 'Morbier Clocks' was well attended with about 40 people. Show and Tell had many interesting clocks and watches that were enjoyed by all. Seven lucky attendees won door prizes.

Chapter 190 has added 7 new members to NAWCC and has a total chapter membership of 66 and we're still growing.

The Chapter has taken on its own life with benefits for all members. I have received several phone calls and E-mails requesting information about chapter 190. Several callers have been seeking recommendations for watch and clock repair work. The chapter has prepared a "Directory of Service & Repair, Clocks and Watches" to be given out upon request. If you wish to be in this Directory and are qualified in repair or restoration please let me know. Also we have a classified section in the chapter news letter that is available to all members. Contact Ken McWilliams if you wish to place an advertisement. Both of these advertising venues are free. This provides a valuable service to our members and the public.

The next meetings program will be presented by Ferdinand Geitner on "Pocket Watches and some very unique repairs". We will be presenting programs of interest in many different areas of horology. If you have a program you would like to give or have an idea or area of horology that is your interest, please contact me or any of the Board members.

We have several people signed up for a beginning watch repair class if you are interested in a beginning class please contact me or Paul Skeels.

The next meeting will introduce a Free Table. This will be a table where you can get rid of some JUNK. (One man's junk is another man's treasure) The way this works is you go out to your garage, shed, clock or repair area and gather up that old stuff you can't sell, think you might use someday (but have had for ten years) and don't have the heart to throw away. You come and put it on the table and take some fresh items (stuff) that you know for sure, maybe, someday, perhaps in the next life, you can use. The items have to relate to horology or close to it.

For our next meeting bring and share that special find that you purchased at the GLAR Regional.

See you all at the next meeting.

Mike Schmidt



Our website is now on line!
www.nawcc-ch190.com

*It is a Work-in-Progress and new features will be added as we grow. There are presently many links to other horology sites and networks. **Chrono Times** can be downloaded in full color. **Photos** of our monthly meetings are posted. A schedule of our meetings and other events are listed. We will be adding helpful tips for clocks and watches.*

**If you have any suggestions for our site contact;
Mike Schmidt, Ken McWilliams or Dave Coatsworth**

Note from the Editor:

Tails From The Bench will be a regular feature in our newsletter. Ferdinand Geitner (Ferd) is a Master Watchmaker and Master Clockmaker. He was trained in Europe and has earned the respect of colleagues around the world.

Tails From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

Another one of my tales revolves around diagnosing the why's of an unusual problem. I serviced a 50-year-old Rolex automatic with a Brequet Overcoil Hairspring, adjusted it on the timing machine in six positions and ran it on my automatic tester (a wrist simulator) for several days. It kept time within six seconds per day!

About ten days later the customer called to tell me that the watch was gaining about fifteen minutes every hour. My immediate conclusion was that the Hairspring was stuck together for some reason yet to be determined. There are three reasons for the hairspring to stick together, excess oil running onto the coils, magnetism pulling the coils together or parts of the coils getting stuck on some other component of the watch.

When the customer brought the watch to the shop for examination the following day I found several of the inner Hairspring Coils stuck between the regulator pins, which confirmed my diagnosis but did not give me the "Why." It did not seem to be magnetized or oily. A simple repair, just touching the hairspring gently (in the right place) and it fell back into place. It was expanding and contracting correctly and had sufficient room to clear the regulator pins (even when shaken) so what happened???

I asked the customer when it happened and what he was doing at the time but got no clear answer. As a routine measure I washed the hairspring and Balance in One Dip, demagnetized the watch, checked for any other possibilities and returned the watch to the customer. (He did not want to leave it for testing).

Two days later, another call. It's doing the same thing again! Another check and the same Situation, so this time I was a little more persistent with my questions. I explained to the customer the technical implications and the usual reasons for the hairspring to react this way. When I got to "Magnetism" he flinched and said "Oh, I'm wearing a magnetic belt to prevent arthritis and related illnesses," he proceeded to show me a garment under his shirt, about 12 inches wide around his middle with wires going all through it, on a battery pack. I took a spare hairspring, held it about a foot away in the air, let it go and it shot like a bullet onto the belt. I had my answer!!!

How am I supposed to know about an item on a customer's body that I haven't even heard about, that drives old watches (and Watchmakers) crazy???

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.

David Star Jordan

The greatest virtues are those which are most useful to other persons

Aristotle

What I Found in Dad's Old Gray Toolbox

by Paul Skeels

Last month I told you how I caught the pocket watch bug. Soon I needed watchmaking tools. It's a cliché that everyone has a box containing an old watch in the attic, but I really lucked out when Mom decided it was time to clean out her garage last August. We thought we might find something packed away in there, since Dad had always liked watches and clocks, and because back in the 1950's he had taken a watchmaking course.

Out from among the dusty stacks of cardboard boxes in the far side of the garage emerged an old gray toolbox. I smiled as we opened it, recognizing from childhood, on the top tray, a couple of Dad's tools: a little hammer with brass and plastic heads; a small screwdriver with a white plastic handle bearing the name of a hobby shop in Dallas, Texas.



There was also a large pair of tweezers that looked useful; nothing too exciting, but worth saving. Then we lifted up the tray and looked into the rest of the box. Eureka! Bingo! Payday!

In their original containers for the most part, and probably untouched for 50 years, was a complete assortment of vintage watchmaking tools, including tweezers, small pliers and nippers, a set of Waltham screwdrivers; a K&D mainspring winder, two poising tools, Marshall movement holders, burnishers, files, polishing compounds, a nearly full bottle of Nye porpoise jaw oil, an alcohol burner, an anvil, oilers, cannon pinion and watch hand removers, an Arkansas stone, a loupe, a staking tool, a brass gauge, and more. Finally, wrapped in cloth or paper and protected in little plastic boxes, we found Dad's project watches. These included an old Banner wristwatch, a very early New York Standard 18s pocket watch, a vintage Hamilton 987 wristwatch movement and case, and a Waltham 12s model 1894 pocket watch (with Dad's notes about what parts were needed).

During the past few months I've spent many happy evenings working on several timepieces, including Dad's project watches. I've been able to get the Banner running with a cleaning and lubrication, the Standard running with a temporary roller jewel I made (from a needle point, Ferdinand!), and the Hamilton 987 running with a NOS hairspring from Dashto. With Dad's notes for reference I'll start on the Waltham soon. I think he would approve. Maybe he didn't leave those notes just for himself.

Mom said to me recently, "You know, I think I have my great-grandmother's watch in a box upstairs somewhere." I'll

The French Republican Calendar

By Ken McWilliams

At our meeting last month I presented a program on the French Morbier clock, 1680 to 1930. During this period another interesting horological event occurred in France, a decimal calendar.

Following the Revolution, France adopted a reformed calendar called the French Republican or Revolutionary calendar, to replace the Gregorian calendar. Revolutionary France was eager to overthrow the oppression of church and king and adopted descriptive calendar names reflecting reason, science and nature. The calendar was devoid of the religious and mythological connotations of the Gregorian calendar.

The calendar consisted of twelve months, each having exactly thirty days. There were three 10 day weeks (*decades*) in each month. Each day consisted of 10 hours and each hour had 100 minutes and each minute had 100 seconds. Thus an hour was more than twice as long as a conventional hour; a minute was slightly longer than a conventional minute; and a second was slightly shorter than a conventional second.

Five or six extra days remained at the end of each year, called complimentary days. These were dedicated to vacations and celebrations. The calendar was calculated from September 22, 1792, the day the Republic was first proclaimed. Each new year started at midnight September 22 and ended on September 21.

The four seasons had three months each and were named:

Autumn

Vendémiaire (vintage), *Brumaire* (mist), *Frimaire* (frost)

Winter

Nivôse (snow), *Pluviôse* (rain), *Ventôse* (wind)

Spring

Germinal (sprouting), *Floréal* (blossom), *Prairial* (meadow)

Summer

Messidor (harvest), *Thermidor* (heat), *Fructidor* (fruit)

Not only was each month named for natural themes, but each day of the year was also given a unique name.

The "complementary" or extra days at the end of the year were named to honor *Virtue*, *Genius*, *Labor*, *Opinion* and *Rewards*. During leap year the sixth day was called *Revolution*.

The Republican calendar was in use from 1793 through 1805 in France and areas under French rule. It was not very popular with clock and watch makers because they could not export the Republican timepieces. Clocks were manufactured to display this decimal time, but it did not catch on and was officially abandoned in 1795, although some cities continued to use decimal time as late as 1801.

After Napoleon dismantled the Republic, he reinstated the Gregorian calendar in 1806. Most supported the switch back, especially those who enjoyed one day off

every seven days instead of every ten days, and international businessmen, who had trouble with the varying differences between the Republican Calendar and the rest of the world. There were supporters though, and the calendar has resurfaced in small ways many times in the past 200 years. Though it was not a success, the ambition and vision of such a calendar was and still is amazing.

There are clocks that have survived from that era that measure decimal time but they are very rare so, if you see a clock at a yard sale and the dial only goes to 10, buy it. The only one that I have ever seen happened to be a Morbier. Even rarer are decimal watches, but be sure it isn't a stop watch before you buy it. ■

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 each other.

The next few issues will focus on our officers and board of directors. Get to know them, they are your key to making your ideas and opinions heard. We need your feedback, that is the only way we will grow and prosper.

Robert Gary - Director, Publicity

I have been interested in clocks for as long as I can remember. My mother would go antique shopping, and drag me along. I soon learned to look for all the old clocks, where ever they might be. To me, clocks are works of art. I would rather have six clocks on the same wall than have six oil paintings.

Since my wallet didn't support the realities of clock collecting, I started out collecting novelty character watches that I could obtain at child-reachable prices, and through an activity that I excelled at as a boy, eating sugary breakfast cereal! I would save up the necessary number of box tops and mail in them in with the \$10 or \$15 required. At that time, watches were popular premiums. Ritz Crackers, Charlie the Tuna, the Pillsbury Dough Boy, Mr. Peanut, and numerous other characters were featured on mechanical watches. They weren't much of a dollar investment, but they brought me a lot of pleasure.

As I grew up, my interest changed from novelty watches back to clocks. Such impediments to collecting as going to college, getting married, and having children delayed my ability to engage in my hobby, but eventually I found Chapter 75 in the San Fernando Valley. After taking a couple of early twentieth century American clocks, I inherited, to several "clockmakers" and having the job botched every time, I knew that somewhere out there was a way to learn to repair clocks properly.

The members of Chapter 75 took me under their wings and showed me what tools I needed and what I needed to know to repair and maintain my own collection. If you haven't taken advantage of the NAWCC Suitcase Classes, I strongly recommend that you do. They are very intense, fascinating, well taught classes that you will thoroughly enjoy.

The Greater L. A. Regional, 2007

One of the advantages of membership is that we have access to all NAWCC regionals, and this is the biggest of them all. This year was a first in that we allowed the general public to attend the last day of the mart. Overall, this was one of the best regionals we have ever had. For those that missed it, here are some photos.

Huell Howser was at the show on Saturday and filmed one of his "California Gold" programs there.

His program on the Greater Los Angeles Regional is scheduled to air in the Los Angeles area on KCET, Tuesday March 6th at 6:00 p.m. It will also air on Thursday March 29th at 6:00 p.m. Huell's programs are also aired on KVIE in Sacramento, KVIE in Fresno, KCOE in Huntington Beach and KEET in Eureka. The GLAR will have copies of the program for sale soon.





Happy Birthday

Dan McKinnon

**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
will be February 18, 2007**

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:30

The Meeting starts at 1:45

PROGRAM

by **Ferdinand Geitner**

“Pocket Watches, and some very unique repairs”

(Ferd will share some of the unusual repairs that he has encountered over the years. This promises to be a very Informative and entertaining program)

SHOW & TELL

Bring anything that you would like to share with us

CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

There are two ways to get your ad listed here.

1. The quickest way is to e-mail it to internut@socal.rr.com. Text should be in MS word, MS notepad or RTF format. If you want to have a photo in the ad attach it to the e-mail. (JPEG or TIFF Format)
2. Bring your ad to the monthly meeting and give it to Ken McWilliams or Mike Schmidt. Pictures can be scanned into your ad at no charge. If you want it returned provide a stamped self addressed envelope.

When you create your ad remember to describe the item or service clearly. When possible, include prices. ALWAYS include a way to contact you. Phone number and e-mail address if you have one. Just give us the information and we will help with the layout. If you prefer to create your own ad, provide it in an EPS format or hi res jpeg.

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

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

WANTED

Looking for a particular clock, watch, tool, part service etc.

You may get lucky here.

FOR SALE

Ingersolls Clocks & Antiques

STORE CLOSING SALE

30% off everything!

50 Clocks

1 wt Viennas, Mantle, Wall, Long Case and more.

Open Thurs, Fri, & Sat 10:30 to 4:30

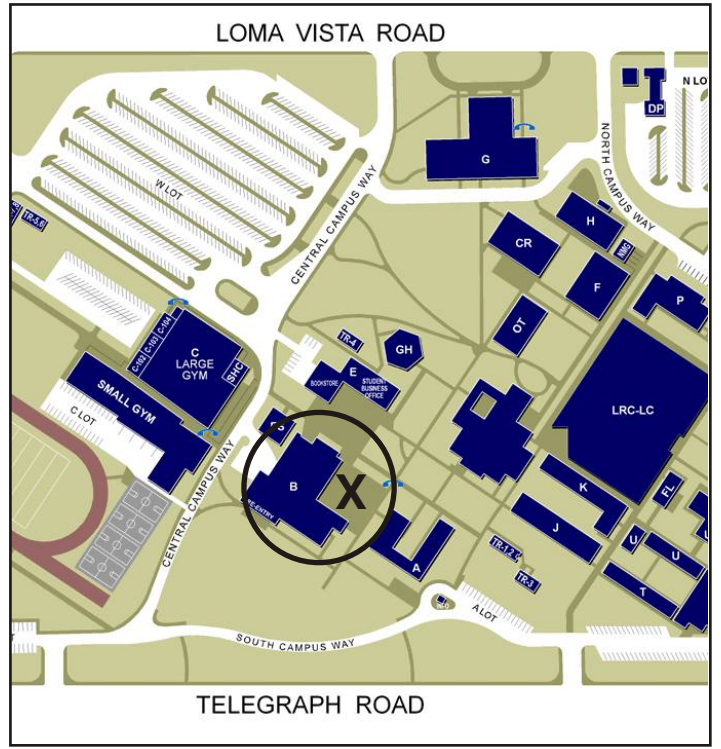
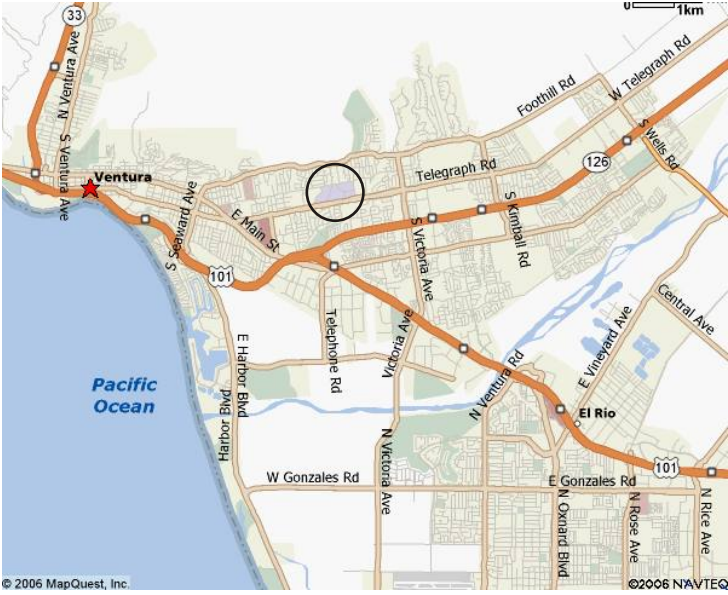
62 Palm dr. Camarillo, Ca

(805) 484-8813 - (805) 482-9936

Need to dispose of a clock, watch, tool, excess stock?

Someone may be looking for just that item.

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", west of the gym and athletic field.



Hope to see you there!

February 2007 Issue

FEB 18

NEXT MEETING

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

Chrono Times