



Barn Find

by Ernie Jenson

Editors Note: This is a very brief telling of a very interesting, and still unfolding, story. It is about the search for information of a rare Dutch clock. But there is a story within the story, it is the tale of strangers, in different countries, separated by thousands of miles and a language barrier, yet bound together by a common love of clocks, as they work together to unravel the origin of the clock. The whole story will be placed on our website when it is completed, it will be too large for our newsletter.

ENEM Master Clock “Eerste (First) Nederlandsche (Dutch) Electro-Magnetische (electromagnetic) Uurwerkfabriek (clock factory)

Usually the subject of a “Barn Find” is an old car. But in this case it is an old rare Dutch Master Clock found in a barn in Iowa. The clock was made in 1915 in Utrecht, Holland. About twenty years ago, Neil Kuns acquired this clock while visiting relatives on a trip to Iowa. The condition of the clock indicates that it had been stored in the barn many years, after the owner tried to repair the clock with available farm tools and parts.

The suspension spring was made from steel strapping. When a pivot had been broken off, the rural mechanic had sharpened the remaining arbor on a grindstone, awled a hole into a piece of leather and affixed it to the inside of the plate. Needless to say, the clock was not working.

This is an electric winding master clock which runs on 24vdc. This clock has two trains. The time train drives a one second pendulum and trips the second train each minute. It also rotates a program wheel to ring bells. Pins can be set into the program wheel for bell ringing. The program wheel is divided into twenty-four hours and there are enough spaces to ring a bell during any five minute period. The second train delivers a +/- pulse to the slave clock. This +/- pulse is also sent to the two



magnetic coils for the two armatures that wind the spring in both trains to keep the master clock running.

The two trains are kept running by a rather ingenious winding mechanism which is the subject of the Dutch Patent No. 4 6 0 4 .

The armature, as shown in Photo 3, rocks back and forth, similar to a permanent magnet electric motor. The armature moves one direction when given a plus dc current and move in the opposite direction when given a negative dc current. The ingenious pawl mechanism winds the spring, which in turn provides the motive force to maintain the time train and the +/- train, when moving in either direction. A clever lot, those Dutch!

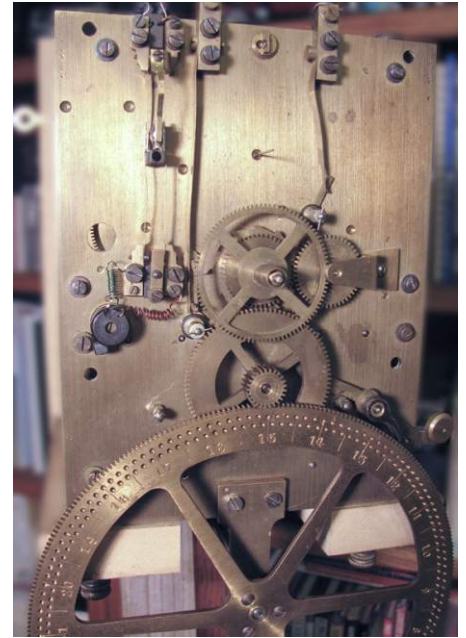


PHOTO 2

Our thanks go to a number of people in the Netherlands who are helping us research the history of the ENEM Company. In short, ENEM started business in 1914 and went bankrupt in 1926. During the years of their success, they provided the clocks for the Utrecht rail system. They built a beautiful master clock but, no doubt, they incurred difficult times because they were right in the crossroads of all the participants of World War I, which ran from 1914 to 1919. ■

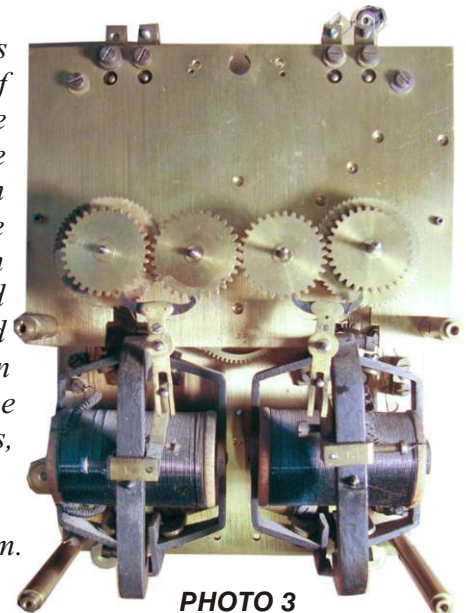


PHOTO 3

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

Chapter 190 has made a big effort to maintain and increase its membership. It takes a complete team effort of the Board along with chapter members to keep growing our membership. Continuing education through NAWCC Field Suitcase Workshops, "FSW," and special chapter workshops, and monthly meetings with workshops has been one of the excellent drivers for the recruitment of new members.

To continue our chapter growth and to find ways to help expand NAWCC membership, Chapter 190 has formed an Education Committee to develop and implement a clock repair course to be offered at the community colleges. The introductory course to be offered to the general public will consist of: the course requirements of the FSW 101, American clock history, some general world horology, and the mission and purposes of the NAWCC.

The Education committee chaired by Ken McWilliams, members Laurie Conti, Ferdinand Geitner, George Gaglini, Giorgio Perissinotto, and I will be advising, working, and developing the Community Education Workshop with instructor Lex Rooker.

In support of Chapter 190's education program, I wish to acknowledge receiving a \$7000 donation from our member, Lex Rooker. On behalf of all the chapter members, future chapter members, and NAWCC members we say thank you and bravo for your total support and commitment.

Congratulations go to all of the students who recently completed the June FSW 301 "Beginning Pocket Watch Repair Workshop" with instructor Ferdinand Geitner. The student included class coordinator George Gaglini, Barbara Barnes, Thomas Ferkel, Christopher Martin, Robert McClelland, Dan McKinnon, David Vogt, and Weber Wang.

This month begins the election process for Chapter Officers and Board Directors. Open nominations will begin with the July meeting and close at the August meeting followed by elections in September. If you want to make a nomination or would like to be on the Board please contact the nominating committee of Ernie Jenson, George Antinarelli, and Paul Skeels.

The Sunday morning workshops are free, open to all, and are well attended. At 10:30AM a discussion on Clock Repairs will be led by Ferdinand Geitner, and at 11:30 AM a discussion on Watch Repair will be led by Jorge Montoya. If you want to learn or get some help with a repair problem this is the place to be. The coffee will be on early.

See you at the meeting

Mike



Happy Birthday

Barb Barnes, Ron Palladino, Steven Schechter,
Mike Schmidt, Kathi Sheffrey & Kim St Dennis

MARKINGS OF THE SANTA BARBARA TOWER CLOCK

by Mostyn Gale

One of the most enjoyable parts of restoring any clock for me is discovering the “secrets” of the clock. This has been no less true as I have been restoring the Santa Barbara Courthouse Seth Thomas Tower Clock.

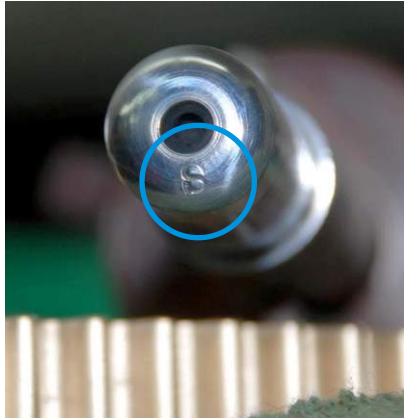
For anyone that has done clock restoration before, you will know what I am talking about, but for those who have not, the “secrets” that I am referring to are those things that you only discover because you took the time to disassemble, clean, and carefully inspect each part.

Some of these secrets were hiding in plain sight (just overlooked,) but others are only discovered either after cleaning or after disassembly or both.

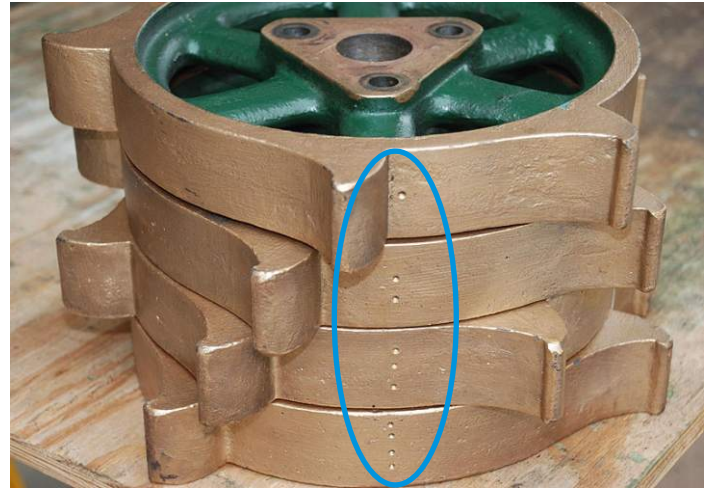
The most obvious sign on this clock is its maker's label. One the first things you want to know about any clock is who made it and when was it made. On this clock, that was easy and not a secret, a prominent label says, “Seth Thomas Clock Co., June 1, 1929.”

Most of the other “secrets” of the clock are markings of different types that are intended to help the installer (or restorer in my case) remember how to put things back together in proper position. This starts with the elements of the frame.

Each of the cross braces on the frame is marked with a series of dots; 1, 2, or 3 dots to correspond with the same number of dots on the frame itself. The same is true for many of the other parts in the clock; most commonly, this technique is used to position a wheel on an arbor or bushing.



attachment. Today, this might have been made such that the screws were perfectly evenly spaced around the center. I found this to not, necessarily, be true on this clock. Sometimes the fit would be close, but the screws were tight or not fitting at all if the wheel was not in the correct position. Another place that dots were used is on the chime cams; this indicates the proper order so that the melody is right.

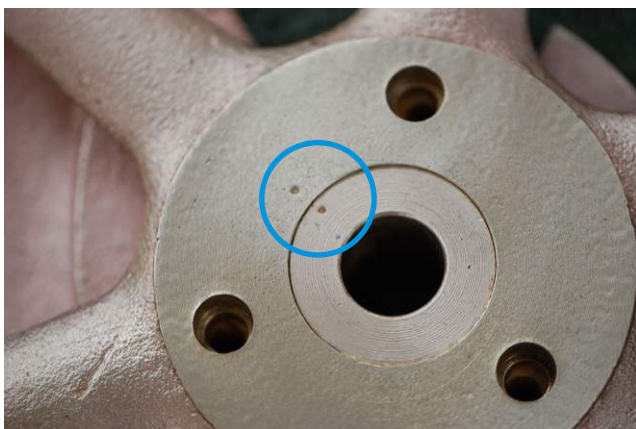


The other common marking on the clock is stamped lettering. This was used mostly on many of the mounting pieces; wheels, bushings, and mounts. They indicate the difference between front and back, also between strike, chime, or time trains. One interesting marking that I found on a pair of bushings was a three letter sequence with one letter upside down. These were the bushings for the winding arbor of the chime train. The markings are “FQW” and “BQW”, standing for; “Front, Chime, Winding” and “Back, Chime, Winding.” You can see in the photos that the “Q” on the back bushing is upside down.



The chime hammers, hammer springs, hammer tails, and hammer lifting levers are all marked with numerals; 1, 2, 3, or 4 to keep the order straight.

Finally, and perhaps most important, are the markings that you don't want to see but you really need to see, that is damaged parts. Without identifying damage, repairs would not be made and proper functioning of the clock is likely not to happen.

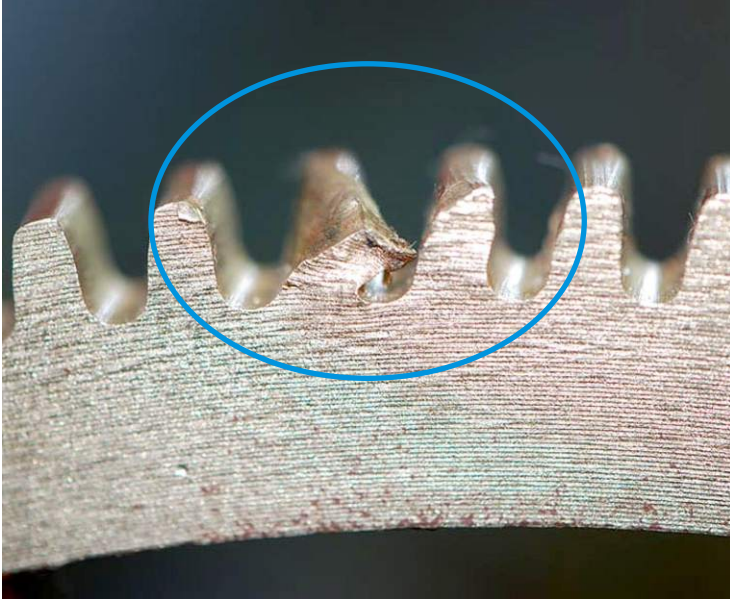


Presumably, one reason for these markings is to enable the proper fit. On wheels that are attached to arbors, three screws are often used to make the

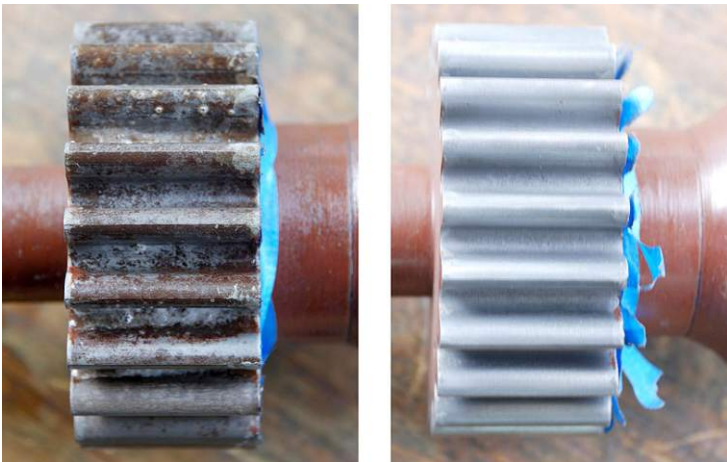
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This clock had some expected damage and some unexpected damage. The expected damage was wear of some typical parts, most notably, the time train winding sprocket (which we replaced) and bushing wear which George Antinorelli did a great job of re-bushing. The unexpected marks were serious damage to teeth, mostly on the striking wheels. It is unclear how this damage was



created, but something must have jammed the wheels at some point and caused significant damage to several wheels and bent one lever.



BEFORE

AFTER

I am always surprised at how many things I notice in a clock when I take the time to look carefully, a good lesson for me that has not taken long to learn. For me, this has served to reinforce the necessity of doing a complete job when restoring any clock. ■

***Men do not quit playing because they grow old;
they grow old because they quit playing.***

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is July 17, 2011**

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

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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FSW 101 - Beginning Clock Repair

This is a 4 day workshop offered October 7-10
Coordinator Ralph Napolitano, phone: 805 509-2530
email: ralphnapolitano@msn.com

***FSW 104 - Introduction to Weight & Fusee Driven
Clocks.***

This is a 4 day workshop offered Nov. 11-14
Coordinator Paul Skeels Phone: 805 525-7325
email: plskeelsatty@verizon.net

A future workshop to be offered, if there is enough interest, is the **F502 "The Atmos Repair Course."** If you are interested please send me an email to Eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

If you have an interest in a workshop or horological subject, please make your interest known to me or any Board member. You can find all of the Field Suitcase classes presently offered, with information, on the NAWCC website.

If you do not see the subject that you are interested in, please let us know. If the interest is high enough, we will create our own workshop.

We are always interested in your suggestions.

MAINTAINING YOUR WRISTWATCH

by Henri Bonnet

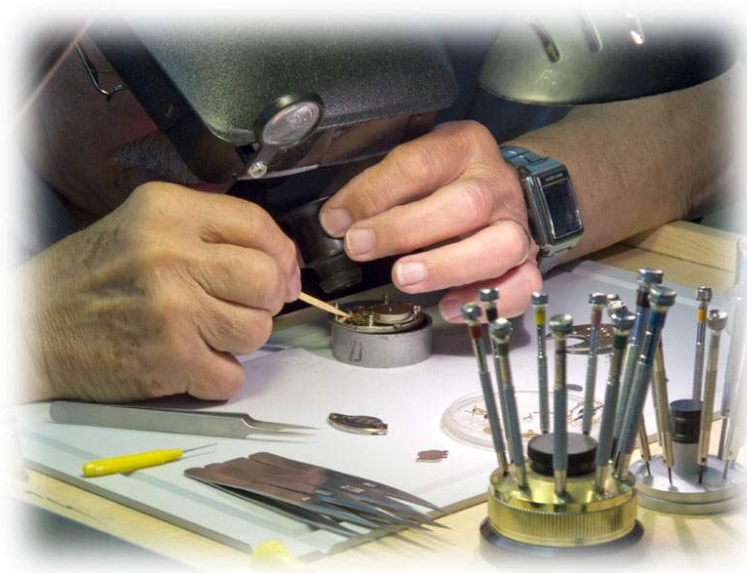
For your fortieth wedding anniversary, your wife has just given you, by far the best present ever: the most exquisite mechanical wristwatch you have ever laid eyes upon, the one that you had coveted for a long time. Your joy knows no bounds. You can't stop admiring the marvelous piece of horological technology now strapped on your wrist. You have read the owner's manual twice. One item caught your attention though: "in order to maintain its accuracy, the watch should be serviced every 3 years at the factory, or at an authorized service center." Of course, you know that the factory is located in Switzerland, and you have read in the warrantee brochure that the nearest approved service center in this country is two thousand miles away. You know very well that you are not going to entrust your precious timepiece to the post office, or to any other carrier for that matter.

You also know that three years from now, you will have to make a decision. Right? When the time comes, you will have the following choices to consider, among others. For example:

1. Fly to the approved service center to deliver your watch, and fly there again eight or ten weeks later to collect it.
2. Bite the bullet and send your watch to the authorized service center or to Switzerland, insured, via the most reliable carrier you can find.
3. Return your watch to the store where it was purchased, letting them take care of it, and hope for the best.
4. Entrust your watch to a local watchmaker, despite the admonition in the owner's manual.
5. Do nothing. Keep wearing your wristwatch until it ceases to keep good time, (if and when that happens,) and decide what's the best thing to do then.

There is a high likelihood that many of our readers can personally identify with the above situation, and the ensuing dilemma. For decades, watch manufacturers have worked hard to find good solutions to the daunting servicing problem. They strove to produce timepieces that wouldn't require servicing at all (or at least, between long intervals.) Even as far back to the seventies and early eighties, the critical shortage of watchmakers contributed to the proliferation of the unrepairable Swatch. Low cost coupled with disposability was certainly one possible answer. As for quality mechanical

timepieces, George Daniels, the renowned English watchmaker, took a step in the right direction when he invented the co-axial escapement that required little or no lubrication. Omega subsequently adopted the coaxial, which can be found in many of its wristwatch offerings for the past ten years. Other watch manufacturers are now producing their own answers to the coaxial. In addition to all that, new materials are being introduced into watch movements. Of particular interest is silicon. New escapements made entirely of silicon, including the hairspring, are now being pioneered by several brands, among them the conservative house of Patek Philippe.



Silicon seemingly offers several important advantages. With the help of chemical etching and laser cutting technologies, precise escapement parts are now easier to produce. Once installed, they require no adjustments or lubrication and are impervious to temperature changes, rust, and magnetism.

Could they possibly outlast steel components? Time will tell.

That brings us back to the quality mechanical wristwatch that has been your pride and joy for the past three years, and is still keeping good time. What will your decision be now? Are you really going to send your precious timepiece to a distant service center, just because the owner's manual said so? Not on your life! As a long time watch collector, I have been wearing mechanical wristwatches for nearly half a century. Many of the watches in my collection have never been opened, let alone serviced. Most of them keep reasonably good time, almost as well as when they were just acquired.

What's wrong with resetting or readjusting your wristwatch occasionally? Can you honestly think of a single instance in your daily activities, where two or three minutes would actually make a difference? I can't. The truth of the matter is that a quality wristwatch worn daily will most likely remain reliable for five, even ten or more years without servicing. Nowadays, modern stable high quality synthetic lubricants maintain their lubricating property, and the wear of even a watch's fastest moving components is so negligible as to be practically immeasurable. Over the years I came to the conclusion that it is best to have a wristwatch serviced only when needed, and NOT before.

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Art Nouveau, Art Deco And Art Moderne

by *Giorgio Perissinotto*

It is undeniable that clocks and watches respond to artistic movements and artistic movements are often a reflection of societal and cultural changes. Art Nouveau and Art Deco are two recognizable movements that have deeply influenced the decorative arts and therefore, clocks and watches.

Art Nouveau dominated the Western Art World at the end of the 19th century and well into the 20th. It is seen by art historians as a violent reaction to the strictures and formality of academic art of the century which was about to expire and the emerging new one. Historians also see this era as a definite departure from the Classical and Neo-Classical dogmas which insisted on finding its inspiration and themes in the classical, but long removed Greco-Latin world.

The variety found in decorative arts such as furniture, lamps, vases, tabletop pieces, etc. and reaching into architecture, painting, and sculpture was a natural venue for scores of artists who began to stylize the human figure in elongated, sinuous shapes, flowing long hair; sensual and scantily clad bodies often wrapped around the object. It is also identified as well by organic floral and other plant-inspired motifs and themes, often merging with the human figure.

Here is a typical Baroque/Rococo clock (with a modern movement.) Notice the non-stylized



putti/cherubs, a common theme denoting messengers of love.

Here you see the flowing ensemble of the clock enclosure, the demure female in a rich robe framed by flowers that wrap around the stand.

Art Deco (from Decorative) flourished in the 20's and 30's reaching into World War II. Though it originated in Paris, it soon became a near world-wide artistic explosion. Though it retained the curvilinear aspects of Art Nouveau and its curvilinear asymmetry, it is often represented by angular and geometric patterns. It is also known as Art Moderne; even more than Art Nouveau it also colored fashion and jewelry.



A typical timepiece from this prolific epoch. (photo below)



Here is possibly a transition clock, between Art Nouveau and Art Deco, but you may think differently. (Photo below)



It has often been said that, "Art imitates life." In my approach to timepieces, I always try to balance the mechanical aspects with the aesthetic ones as represented by the case, the dial, the hands, and even the numerals; more facets to admire, understand, and protect. ■

Continued from page 5

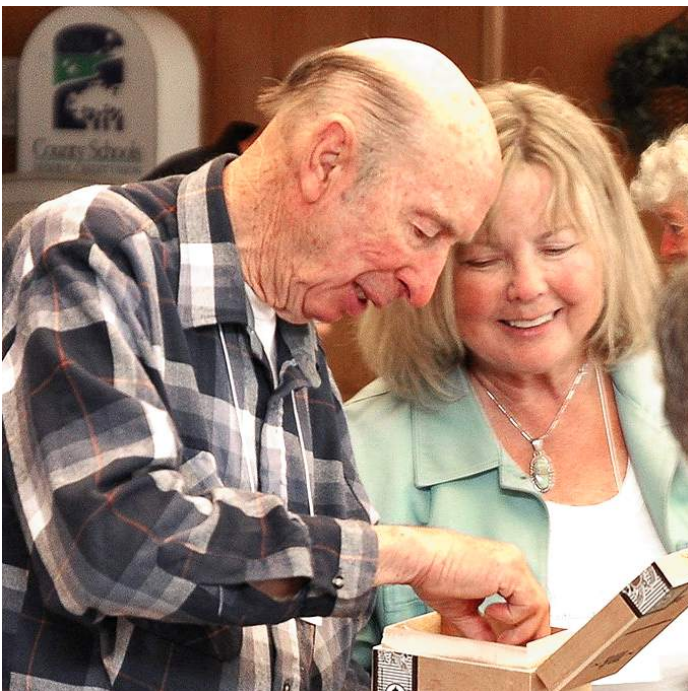
But wait! Say, your watch, after 4 or 5 years of reliable operation, now loses 30 minutes a day, or has stopped altogether?

What will your decision be then? Perhaps you may be so fortunate as to personally know a really good watchmaker in your area (a rarity in itself.) Wouldn't you consider entrusting your precious timepiece to him? Wouldn't that be your best choice, owner's manual notwithstanding? Conceivably, it might not only be your safest, but also your cheapest option. There is only one problem though. Finding an experienced and accomplished watchmaker these days, is like looking for a needle in a haystack. I wish it were different, but that's the stark reality.

So, do yourself a big favor, and appreciate the good local watchmaker you know, and never ever, begrudge his fee. You could do a whole lot worse. Take my word for it. ■

FACES SEEN AT JUNE'S MEETING

Photos by Bill Robinson



Welcome New Member

Michael Pollard
from Camarillo



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CLASSIFIED PAGE

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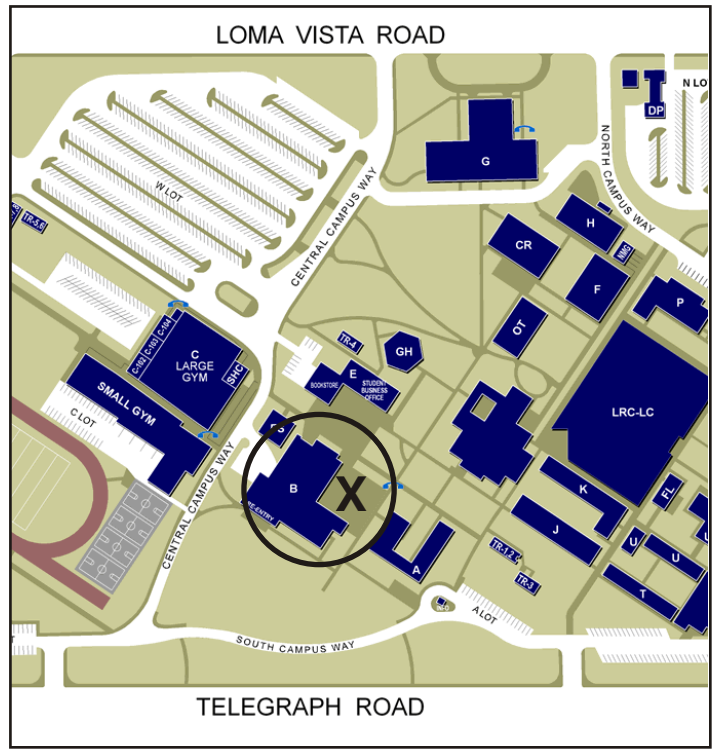
- Vienna Regulator Movements -

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weighter. Looking for movements, etc.

Contact: **Ralph Napolitano, 805-509-2530**

Email: ralphnapolitano@msn.com

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.



July 2011 Issue

NEXT MEETING
JULY 17



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