



Modular Long Case Clocks

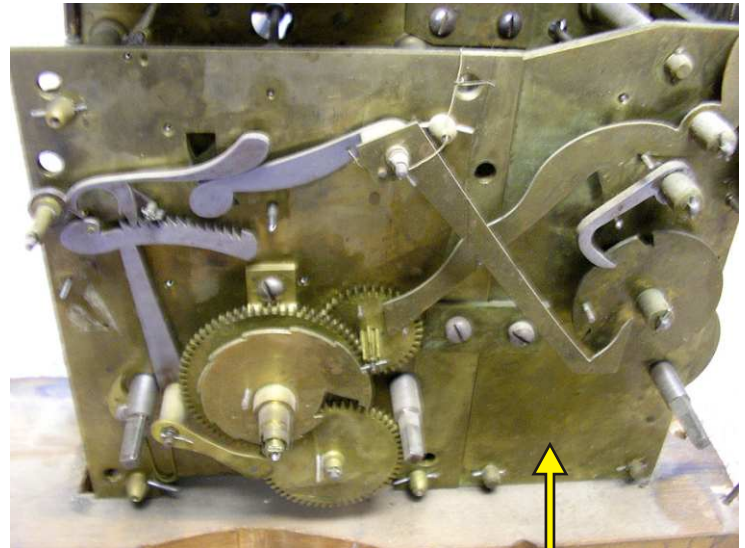
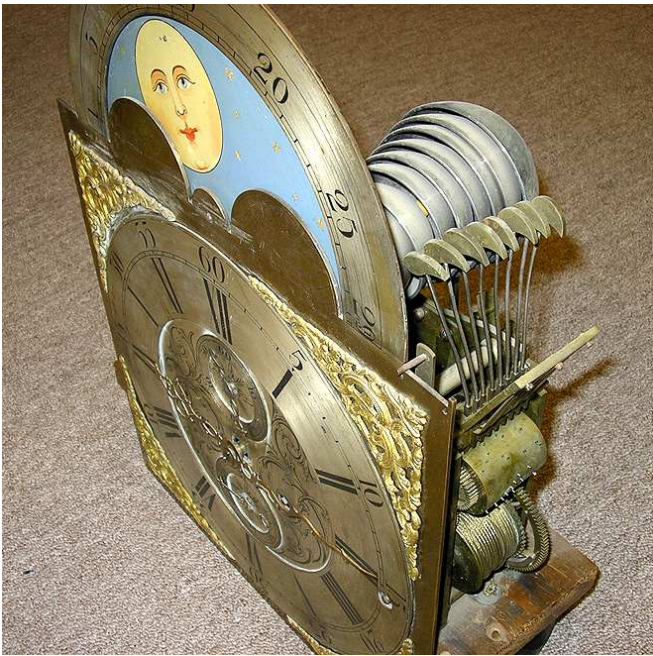
by Ferdinand Geitner

Clocks tend to be designed and built to tell the time, strike the hour, and sometimes the half hour. Some do all of these, plus play various tunes at every quarter hour.

Occasionally, one comes across an interesting variation. This one was possibly an early attempt at a modular, interchangeable design. You could buy the clock with or without the 1/4 hour chime.

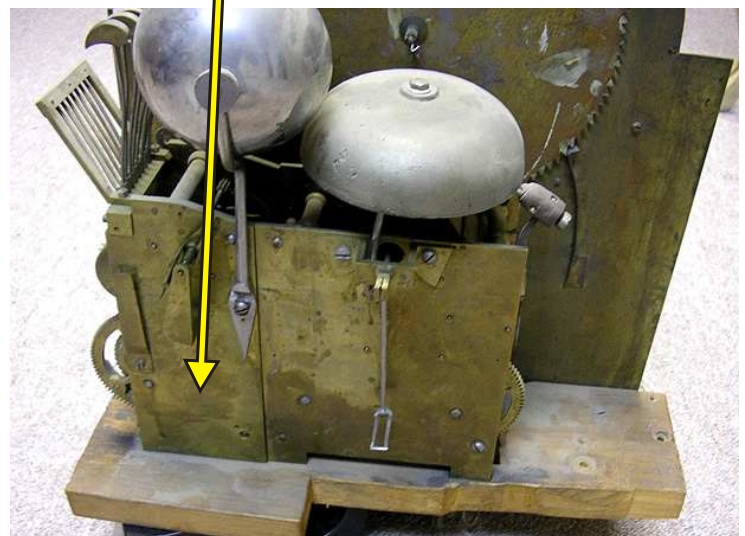
It creates its own little problems; the release of the quarter chimes, by the mechanism further away from the motion works, is followed four times later by the hour strike on the standard movement. It is released by a lever, lifted by a pin, on the secondary mechanism.

The quarter chime uses a count wheel method of determining the number of chimes and a rack and snail for the hour strike. There is no automatic self correction for the quarter sequence, so the chime & strike can get out of sequence with the hands.



Added chime train

This quality Longcase clock movement was designed in the traditional fashion of an eight day time and strike mechanism. Then a quarter hour chime movement was designed and attached to the side of the standard movement plates. The (almost) hidden keyhole can be seen just under the three o'clock numeral for winding the quarter hour chime.



Chime winding arbor

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

"Old Clocks & Watches & Planes... Oh My!"

The Second Annual Clock and Watch Mart has sold over 40 tables. We look forward to a sellout of all 70 tables. NAWCC members are coming from many different areas of California to attend this fun May 17th event. President Steve Mott and members of the Los Padres Chapter 52 will be back with a good offering of clocks, watches, and parts from the Central Coast.

Chairman Ernie Jenson and the Mart committee are busy organizing and planning for another great show at the CAF WWII Air Museum in Camarillo. Make your reservations early. 805 482-6021 or e-mail: erniejenson@roadrunner.com

The April 19th workshop will be an open workshop, "Brocot Escapements" or stump the experts with your clock or watch problems or any other horological subject you would like to talk about.

The Program for the April meeting will be, "The Brocots, A Dynasty of Horologists" and will be presented by John Kirk from Santa Barbara. This will be a fascinating and interesting program for everyone about these Parisian master clockmakers. The development of the Brocot escapement, the improved suspensions and temperature compensated pendulums and the development of the first perpetual calendar along with many other contributions will be presented.

This year is the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. There are many great programs, books, and events celebrating this occasion. There has been an interesting story in the news about Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch that now resides at the Smithsonian Museum. It happens that the watch was being repaired by

watchmaker Jonathan Dillon in April 1861 when Fort Sumter, South Carolina was attacked. In 1906, Dillon reported that as soon as he heard the news about the first shots of the Civil War, he removed the dial and inscribed the following on the metal plate: "Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a president who will at least try". This message, unknown by Lincoln, was lost and unseen for 150

years. The watchmaker's great-great-grandson remembered the story and brought it to the attention of the museum. The watch was recently opened and the actual message found says "Jonathan Dillon April 13- 1861 Fort Sumpter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J Dillon," The inscription continues: "April 13- 1861 Washington thank God we have a government Jonth Dillon."

The Show & Tell topic for this months meeting: Any clock or watch with an inscription or writing would be of interest for great sharing. Many repairers and owners inscribed messages and dates in timepieces. The story and history of timepieces are enhanced by these inscriptions. Any clock or watch or just a good story is welcome for sharing.

Come join us for a great Workshop, Mart, interesting program, fellowship and the best \$5 lunch in town.

See you at the meeting

Mike



FACES SEEN AT THE MARCH MEETING



Love Your Wristwatches

by Henri Bonnet

Wristwatches may mean different things to different people, however, few objects of a personal nature evoke emotions such as wristwatches can.

Obviously, some people may own a wristwatch merely to know the time. Others may wear a wristwatch as an adornment. Some people wear wristwatches for professional reasons such as aviators, divers, or sportsmen.

Other people even wear notoriously expensive wristwatches to feed their ego and impress their friends. For me, wristwatches have come to signify various milestones in the course of my life. Some of my wristwatches I had personally purchased, while others were offered to me as gifts. Be as it may, each one of those timepieces still carries a special significance that will remain with me always. Today, when I strap on one of those wristwatches, I never do so without remembering the circumstances surrounding its acquisition.

I did not own a wristwatch until my early twenties. When I finally could afford to buy one, I waited long enough to save my money in order to purchase a quality timepiece. I bought my first wristwatch in the early sixties: an automatic Longines Conquest Calendar.

When it first came out, the Conquest series was highly prized by knowledgeable watch buyers, and they eventually became a classic. It is a fairly rugged wristwatch which kept excellent time for many years, and still does so to this day. Some examples of these timepieces occasionally surface at watch shows or on line, but they are for the most part, in very poor condition. Today, my very first wristwatch still brings back many good memories. I still wear it occasionally, always with great satisfaction.

When I became an aviator in the mid-sixties, I needed a quality chronograph for navigation purposes. In those days GPS was at least three decades into the future. So, I purchased an AOPA chronograph which I still own today. These particular AOPA chronographs were made for only a few years and then discontinued. Very few examples of them still exist today. Most importantly, they were fitted with the wonderful (and famous) Valjoux 72c movement which can be found in top quality chronographs. They were originally produced by Breitling, a

company which still makes quality pilot chronographs today. I spent many happy hours in the air with my faithful AOPA chronograph on my wrist. It has always kept excellent time and has never stopped working while on duty. If it had, I could have faced serious problems in reaching my destination, as a result

of navigation error, and could have encountered life threatening difficulties. So, it would not be much of an exaggeration if I said that over forty years, and 800 hours of flying time, this chronograph has saved my life more than once. I sometimes still wear it for old times sake.

In the early seventies I began my professional career, which required frequent travel all over the industrial world. I always traveled alone, staying in one hotel after another, and soon discovered that I could not rely on hotel staff for my wake up calls. Since it was crucial for me to arrive at my various appointments on time (and indeed time was always of the essence), I needed not only an alarm clock, but an appointment reminder on my wrist as well.

After a series of trials and errors, I purchased a Gubelin Ipsovox automatic alarm wristwatch that was able to fulfill both of these functions. At the time, it was the only alarm wristwatch I knew of that could unfailingly wake me up in the morning since it could emit an audible sound of about eighty decibels. It always kept good time and featured a calendar as well. Over the years, this wristwatch has traveled with me to more than a dozen countries and it has been an essential and faithful companion on the road, for over three decades. I sometimes still wear it, but it probably needs servicing by now.

In the early seventies, like countless others of my generation, I caught the electronic bug.

I was the first in my circle of friends to purchase an electronic calculator, as well as an electronic wristwatch. The watch was a Bulova Accutron timepiece with a day and date window. With its tuning fork escapement and a beat frequency of 0.36 kilohertz, it was by far the most accurate wristwatch in my possession for many years. For me this wristwatch became a symbol of the electronic revolution that took place during that period, when personal computers, as well as many other electronic devices, became available to the average person.



Longines Conquest Calendar wristwatch.



Bulova Accutron tuning fork wristwatch.



Gubelin Ipsovox Alarm wristwatch.

Continued on next page

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Accutron timepieces were later used on board various spacecrafts when manned space flights became a reality.

I sometimes still wear this wristwatch, and it reminds me of the way things were in those pioneering days, as well as of the day when the first man walked on the moon in July of 1969.

In the summer of 1995, my wife and I took a trip to Europe to celebrate our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. We traveled by car through France, Italy, and Switzerland. As a wedding anniversary present my wife offered to buy me a top quality



Patek Philippe Calatrava wristwatch.

wristwatch, in this case, a Patek Philippe. We visited the company's headquarters and showroom in Geneva, on Quai General Guisan. It just so happened that we were the only customers in the showroom at the time, and we were given undivided attention. We were shown multiple trays filled with beautiful Patek wristwatches. It wasn't easy for me to choose.

Eventually, I settled on a nice gold Calatrava, featuring an off white dial and a calendar window. After I mentioned to the people of Patek Philippe my interest in horology, we began to discuss watches and they told us stories about the company and its culture. This was an unforgettable experience and they certainly made a believer and a friend out of me. I sometimes wear my Calatrava wristwatch, and it is still in pristine condition and a superb timekeeper.



AOPA chronograph, with the Valjoux 72c caliber.

Although, by now, I have purchased a variety of other nice wristwatches for my collection, those five timepieces have acquired the most significance for me, as they have marked important and unforgettable milestones in the course of my life. I can truly say that I love these wristwatches for what they represent. I own no other objects of a personal nature that are so intimately connected to milestones in my life. I hope that your watches mean to you as much as mine mean to me.

Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

Jaguar Dash Clock Repair

Most of the time the Watch or Clockmaker repairs or restores timepieces given to him by the customer that vary from broken or seized condition to as good as new. It's always a satisfying feeling to bring a mechanical instrument back to life. Parts are replaced, or made, and metal is refinished to its original luster.

Then there are the times when one is just a cog in the bigger picture. It started with a phone call from a friend of mine who restores high class antique cars, "Could you take a look at the clocks on the dash?"

It was a beautifully rebuilt and restored 1939 Jaguar soft top. Upholstery, body and engine completely rebuilt, ready for the customer to pick up after about a year of detailed restoration work.

But, "Oops" the clocks don't work!!! A little oversight which puts the clock restorer somewhat under pressure! "Is it possible to fix them by next week???"

Two clocks on one dash. One built into the tachometer, that was hand wound and set by a winder underneath, and the other one was by its self on the dash, wound by turning the bezel and set by sliding a lever on the side while turning the bezel. Both were eight day movements.

The tachometer was removed and the clock from the dash unscrewed for an expedited repair. The movements were solid, small, eight day clocks, and totally sticky with about 60 year old oil. The Tacho clock also had a damaged escape wheel tooth. Fortunately I found a wheel to match in my junk box and fitted it to the original pinion. Worked like a charm. Adjusting it took some time as I wanted to keep it within a few seconds per day under various running conditions. I can't imagine a driver wanting to reset the clocks very often, and seconds have a tendency to add up very fast. The pictures are of the clock host (the car). Enjoy!



The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is April 19, 2009

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

"The Brocots, A Dynasty of Horologers"

Presented by John Kirk

*John will fill us in on the accomplishments
of these Parisian Master Clockmakers.*

SHOW & TELL

"Clocks or Watches with an Inscription"

Coming Events

Chapter 190's Mini Mart

May 17th

In the CAF WW II Air Museum
at the Camarillo Airport

See our website for more info
or contact Ernie Jensen at: 805 482-6021
e-mail: erniejenson@roadrunner.com

Chapter 75's Mini Mart

Sunday, July 26th

In the Granada Pavilion at
Granada Hills

See our website for more info
or contact Robert Gary at: 805 388-1694
e-mail: Robertsclocks@verizon.net

Chapter 190 Educational Opportunities

Workshop

"Techniques in Reverse Glass Painting"

April 30-May 3

This four day class will be taught by
the Chairman of NAWCC Philip Gregory
Cost: \$275 or less depending on number of students.
The coordinator for this workshop will be Jim Gilmore
Contact him at: 805 492-1827 or 805 341-2204
Email: bgil100765@aol.com

This is a rare opportunity and is the first time this class
has been taught in California.

"Sherline Lathe Workshops"

Designed exclusively for the Sherline lathe

These workshops will be taught by **Jerry Keiffer**.
Jerry is a master model maker and clockmaker
known nationally for his award winning work
using Sherline equipment.

Sept 11th & 12th

Basic Sherline Lathe Workshop

Sept 13th & 14th

Advanced Sherline Lathe Workshop

A single workshop is \$175, both workshops are \$325
(A \$75 deposit, per workshop, is required at sign up)
Students may take both workshops together or
only one. However, a basic knowledge of the Sherline
lathe is required for the advanced workshop.

The coordinator for these workshops is: Ken McWilliams
Contact: (818) 718-8300 e-mail: internet@socal.rr.com

**THESE ARE ON A FIRST COME BASIS AND ARE
EXPECTED TO FILL UP VERY QUICKLY**



Happy Birthday

**Terry Flynn, Loren Miller,
Thomas Schmidt, and Larry Smith**

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

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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

WANTED

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**

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

Contact:

Tom McKnett

805-444-6383

- 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

(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**

Antique French 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.
Antique English 2 or 3 gear-train skeleton clock.

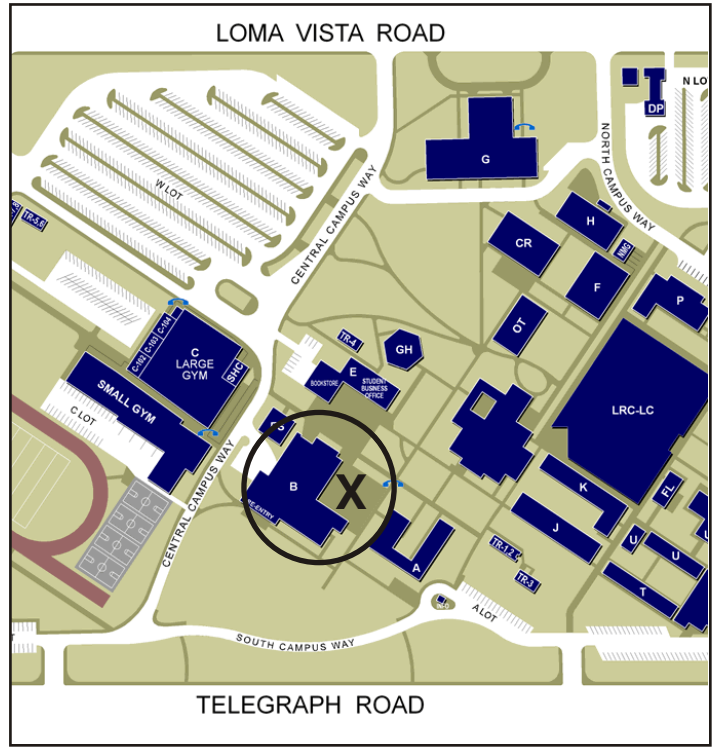
Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

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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 2009 Issue

APR 19
NEXT MEETING

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

Chrono Times