



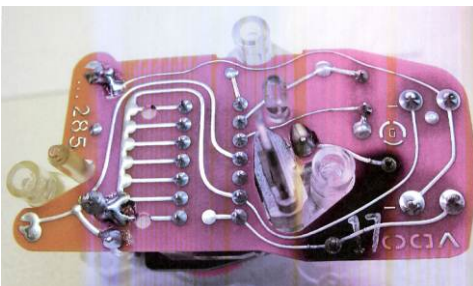
## The Tale of the Resurrected Car Clock

by Henri Bonnet

When the dashboard clock of my '86 Mercedes 300E quit, I drove the car back to the dealer to have the clock repaired. There, I was told that since the clock was one unit with the tachometer, the entire cluster would have to be exchanged for a new one. I asked the shop manager to save the old clock for me, inasmuch as they were going to throw it away anyhow.

When the job was done, the manager handed me the failed clock, with a somewhat amused remark: "here, my friend, have fun!" Since Mercedes would only do a replacement job, I looked at the beautiful clock and wondered if someone else could repair it. All my enquiries failed, and eventually, I placed the clock in a box on a back shelf of my garage. A couple of weeks ago, while rummaging through old stuff, I came across the clock. Suddenly, it dawned on me that I had actually kept it for over twenty years!

I took the clock out of its box and spent a long time admiring it anew. It then occurred to me that perhaps, after twenty years, it deserved another attempt at restoration. Since I had no certainty that the clock could actually be repaired at all, I decided to have a look at its movement to see if there was anything I could do to make it run. My motivation wasn't purely horological. The Mercedes automobiles of the period featured a dashboard which was a true masterpiece of understated elegance and clarity. At any rate, I had been very fond of the car, as well as of its dashboard. So throwing the old clock away now, was out of the question. With some apprehension, I dismantled it, trying to find an obvious mechanical reason for its failure to run. After a careful look at its movement, I found that all gears were running freely.



CIRCUIT BOARD

and was the probable cause of the clock's failure. From my limited experience in electronics, I knew that resistors were



MODIFIED UNIT, MOUNTED ON HARD WOOD STAND

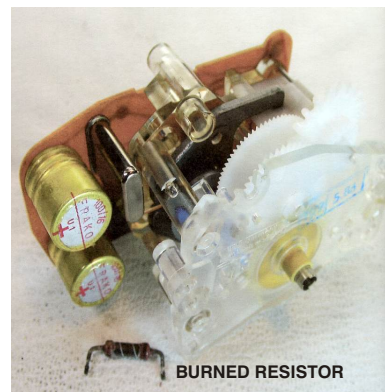
On further examination, I noticed that the electronic printed circuit board had a blackened area surrounding one of its components. It then became clear to me that a resistor had "fried"

often the first components to fail.

When the resistor burned out, its color code became obliterated due to the heat. Now I realized, with deep disappointment, that I was really stuck, with no way of knowing its resistance value. Therefore, I had no way to replace the 25 cent resistor needed to restore the clock. In desperation, I contacted VDO, the original dashboard equipment manufacturer for Mercedes Benz. They replied that they no longer had the wiring diagram for the clock in question, and therefore could not help me. I was reluctant to put the clock back in its box and repeat what I had done some twenty years earlier. So, I kept the failed movement handy for the remote possibility that someone would come along who knows what can be done to fix it.

In the meantime, I went out looking for the smallest possible quartz alarm clock I could find. My intention was to temporarily adapt it to replace the original movement. Of course, space constraints were a big problem. After some running around, I bought a small alarm clock that I thought could do the job. I took it apart and discovered that the hands wouldn't fit. So, I had to machine a couple of adapters out of a small aluminum rod. Finally, I got everything together, and now my Mercedes dashboard clock is running again, thanks to its newly adapted quartz movement! As a result of that, being somewhat proud of myself, I decided to construct a stand for it, out of hardwood. I then placed the clock in a prominent location in my office (next to my computer), so that I can continue to admire it every day.

There is no question that vintage automobile dashboard clocks have a special character and beauty of their own. Some people are known to collect them. I, for one, much prefer those who actually tell the time as well. Does anyone know how to fix a failed '86 Mercedes dashboard clock movement? ■



BURNED RESISTOR



MODIFIED MOVEMENT

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

The Chapter 190 membership continues to grow. George Gaglini membership chairman has reported that we have recently added six new members and that renewed memberships for 2011 have been truly supportive. We now have 127 members.

History was made in January when Chapter 190 hosted the first NAWCC Field Work Shop FSW 302 "Fundamentals of Wrist Watch Repair". The workshop instructor was FSW instructor Ferdinand Geitner and was assisted by Jorge Montoya. Ferdinand is the owner of "The Montecito Clock Gallery." Jorge is the owner of a "Complete Watch Service Center" in Paramount.

Congratulations go to all the students who completed the Work Shop: coordinator and student Zaki Salahuddin, students: Robert Ayer, Alan Davis, David Gidanian, Matthew Mandel, Felix Martin, Robert McClelland, Richard Purnell, Andy Samuels, and Larry Smith

Chapter 190 has five additional workshops confirmed and offered for 2011. We will soon be offering additional works shops: FSW 101 "Introduction to Basic Time & Strike (American Kitchen Clock)", FSW 301 "Introduction to Basic Pocket Watch" and another FSW 302 "Fundamentals of Wrist Watch Repair." These are beginning repair workshops. To fill a workshop we need 8 students and a coordinator. If you are interested in any of these workshops or other educational opportunities, please inform me or any Board member.

The program for February will be presented by Dave Coatsworth. The program will be on "The Waltham Watch Company". Dave, our Chapter Webmaster, is a founding member of 190. He designed our website and designed new websites for Chapter 75 and GLAR. Dave keeps the websites fresh, informative and very interesting. At our chapter meetings you will usually find Dave offering 2-3 tables of watch repair tools and other items from recent estate purchases.

Vote! Included within your February NAWCC BULLETIN is a ballot. We have currently 2000 NAWCC members in California, about 13% of total membership. The western states could use some representation on the Board of Directors. Also there are the "Bylaw Amendments" that need your approval.

Two free workshops to be given prior to our monthly meeting. The next round table workshop on clock repair begins at 10:30 AM will be led by Jim Chamberlain. The starting topic will be "Demonstration on the proper use of a ball peen and brass hammer & demonstration procedure to brad a rivet" The second workshop on "Wristwatch & Pocket Watches" will begin at 11:00 and will be led by Jorge Montoya. These will be open workshops to answer any questions and have discussions related to repairs.

*The coffee will be on early.*

See you at the Meeting

*Mike*



## Happy Birthday

**Dan McKinnon & Akhtar Mir,**



## The Bells of the Santa Barbara Courthouse Tower Clock

by Mostyn Gale

Even before the Santa Barbara Courthouse clock renovation had begun, there was much discussion about bells. As I have written before, the clock was ordered and installed with all the capability of a Westminster quarter chime and strike but no bells were installed. The hammers, pulleys, and chains and even the lag bolts, were still in their original shipping crates in the clock room. They have been there for over 80 yrs! There were no bells or sounds at all in the courthouse until 1977 when the County Board of Supervisors agreed to install an electric carillon which played tapes of bells.

Our discussions were initially concerning, “Why don't we install bells?” To make a long story short, we decided that we could not have real bells due to the proximity to people whose ear drums would not tolerate the sound coming from real bells the size of those that would be appropriate for this clock, the largest being about four feet across and weighing around 5000 lbs. Then, of course, the cost of bells that size would also be prohibitive for the budget that we were working with.

Real bells notwithstanding, we did want the strike and chime trains of the clock to be working and to see the glorious fans (speed governors) for those trains flying, so what should we do? Many options were considered, translucent “plastic” bells, even wooden bells were considered. What we finally arrived at was some very well crafted imitation bells that would look quite real and mounting the hammer striking hardware so that the hammers do not actually hit the bells but get close enough to make a good simulation.

The bells have now been crafted by a company up in San Francisco. They are fiberglass covered Styrofoam and finished with such fidelity that only an educated bell person could tell the difference, and maybe not even they.

Of course, tap one and you can tell right away. Though they are full size, each bell can be lifted by a single person. In the last few weeks they have been moved with some challenge, due to their size, into the clock room where they are ready to be mounted.



*At the factory*

In addition to the mechanical/physical aspect of bells we resurrected an idea that had been around for at least a year before the project was started. A year earlier, Bryan Mumford and I had visited the clock. We had noticed that the electronic carillon that was setup in the clock room and “played” the chimes on the quarter hour, was not synchronized with the clock itself. Inevitably, it would drift away from the clock and I would get calls from observers wondering why the clock was off. I had to explain to them that it was the chimes that were off, not the clock! Bryan and I were wondering how we could get the chimes synchronized.



*The trip to the tower*

Well, here was a perfect opportunity. Bryan agreed to make a circuit that would play a digital sound recording of each bell. So, that's what we are setting about to do. The hammers will trigger an electronic bell chime made by Bryan. The recording will be played on two speaker systems, one inside the room, and another outside the courthouse. The inside speakers will be mounted inside the bells so that it seems that the sound is coming from the bells. The outside speakers will, of course, be louder and audible for the surrounding neighborhood as it has been in the past. It won't be long before the Santa Barbara courthouse is chiming again. ■



*Stored in the basement*

## CHAPTER 190 PEOPLE

### Mike & Beverly Schmidt

by Kris Clarkin



Mike Schmidt was born in Detroit, Michigan and moved to Southern California at nine years of age. He spent three years in the army, of which he was stationed in Germany for thirty months. He married Beverly in 1960. They just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, congratulations to you both!

Beverly is an accomplished pianist, piano teacher, and judge of piano competitions. They have two children, two grandchildren and Molly, their very lucky dog which they rescued.

Mike has a degree in accounting. For the first sixteen years of his career, he served as the chief accountant for what was to become Hanson Aggregates, a leading international supplier of heavy building materials. For the next twenty three years Mike managed their plants in various central and southern California locations such as Santa Monica, Sun Valley, and Santa Barbara. After thirty eight years he retired from the company.

Over thirty years ago, Mike and Beverly attended progressive dinners with their Methodist Church group. Going from house to house they found that every member had a beautiful German clock. There were many gorgeous restored grandfather clocks and Vienna regulators. They met a fellow church member who imported and repaired antique clocks from Europe. Mike and Beverly purchased their first clock from them.

Mike then took adult education classes in clock repair and found out about the NAWCC. He has now been a member since 1983.

After thirty years of collecting clocks, his favorites are early American, prior to 1850. He's got three or four he's working on now. His greatest pleasure is to find a "basket case project" and bring it back to its original function and beauty both mechanically and

cosmetically. I've seen some of the wooden cases he's brought back to life, and they are stunning. No doubt Mike is an expert at restoring and refinishing as in addition to his work at Hanson's, Mike and his son had a refinishing business in Pomona for six years restoring pianos, antiques, etc.

Then, something sort of magical started four years ago. Ken McWilliams was teaching clock repair classes at Ventura College. Ken and Mike got together and polled three of the classes and NAWCC members to see if there was enough interest in clock and watch collecting and repair to start a local chapter of the NAWCC. They found that indeed there was such a need. So, they started Chapter 190 officially on September 20, 2006.

Mike is the President and Ken is the Vice President and Editor of the "CHRONO TIMES". Needless to say, it has been wildly successful by about any standard. Currently, Chapter 190 has 127 members, eight FSW classes planned for 2011 and each monthly meeting has an open workshop for an hour and a half. Then there are the outreach programs; to work on public community time pieces such as the Santa Paula tower clock in the Odd Fellows Hall, the Santa Barbara Courthouse tower clock, and the historic Dudley House grandfather clock. These are not only a great public service, but they help membership as well.

Mike advertises the FSW classes nationally and he has students coming in from Florida, Washington, etc to attend Chapter 190's classes. In no small part is this due to the fantastic certified teachers: Ray Marsolek and Ferdinand Geitner.

Mike attributes chapter 190's success to having an excellent board of directors and officers and the focus on education as a main component for growing chapter membership. ■

**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190  
is February 20, 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**

**"The Waltham Watch Company"**

**Presented by Dave Coatsworth**

***The Waltham Watch Company was a very important  
part of the American entry into horology.***

**SHOW & TELL**

**"Clocks & Watches from GLAR"**



# Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

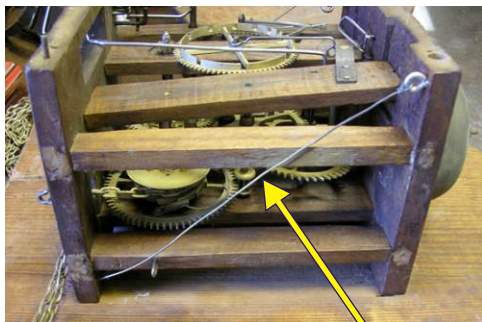
## Wooden Clock

Another favorite (with some customers) is the rustic looking “Wooden Wall Clock”. I’m emphasizing the “wooden” because the mechanism (wheels, pinions, and bushes) are actually metal. It’s the frame, plates, and dial that are made from wood. Plates are not the right word for the strips of wood that hold the gears in place, as one can see from the pictures.



A major problem with this particular style of movement is distortion of the frame. The larger back plate hangs on the wall, the H frame movement, the dial, and the weights pull down on the glued joints. Every time one winds the clock, it gets pulled down more and eventually the profile looks more like a parallelogram than a square assembly, which will lock up the wheels.

In the picture, one can see a very clever support someone added to strengthen the assembly with wire and loops at a tangent.



Wire to strengthen frame

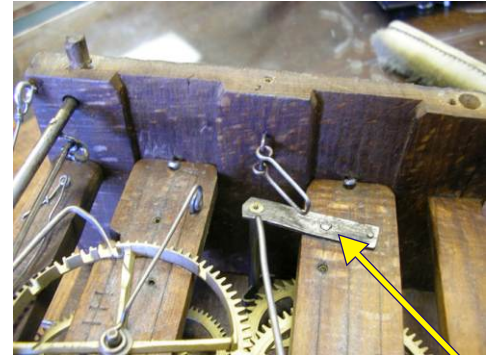
The restorer is faced with another challenge when the movement needs servicing. Often previous repair persons try to overcome the distortion problem by gluing the back plate firmly into place which makes it impossible to dismantle the movement as the “plates”, held in by pins (nails), slide out backwards at the top and sit in cutouts in the bottom. This is the only way to remove the gears for cleaning. One should not put the wooden frame in cleaning solution, as it would remove all the natural oils, drying out the wood and leaving chemical residue in the wood which sucks up liquid like a sponge. Soap and water

are not the best idea either as wet wood has a tendency to warp (bent plates). I use isopropyl alcohol to brush away dirt and oily deposits as it is clean and evaporates quickly before penetrating too deep.

In this clock the back was secured with one center screw at the top which held it in place on the four wooden plugs which were also aided by additional small nails.

It is relatively easy to replace the bushes in the wooden plates, one just needs to make sure they are not fitted too loose as the wood gives a little.

The escapement needs special attention as there is no adjustment on the metal extensions which act as pallet bridges. When one resurfaces the pallet it can make the escape wheel engagement too shallow, resulting in a small



Pallet arbor bushing strip rivited on

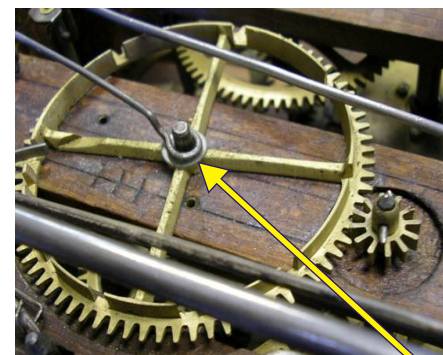
pendulum arc, and sometimes cause excessive skipping of the escape wheel teeth (very bad timekeeping or stopping). The metal strips holding the pallet are nailed or riveted onto the wood and therefore a small movement up or down, to adjust the depthing of the escapement, is impossible. Sometimes it is advisable to add metal to the pallet surfaces to make up losses from previous repairs.

On the side of the movement, one can see the levers for the strike release, count wheel, and striking hammer covered by a metal strip. It looks as if they are just running in a wood cutout, but on closer inspection there is a metal plate stuck in the side which engages in a slot on the shaft.



Typical bushing

movement is on the count wheel, which rubs on the back of a wooden plate, and is held down by a spring with a loop. I place a thin washer underneath to raise it from the plate and reduce friction. Simple! ■



Washer under count wheel keeper

# CHAPTER 190'S ANNUAL CLOCK AND WATCH SHOW

by Ernie Jensen

Make sure you have April 17 marked on your calendar. That is the date for Chapter 190's Annual Antique Clock and Watch Show. This year we are calling it a "Show" as it is more than a "Mart". Once again, we will be adding items other than just clocks and watches. We want items of interest for the whole family. We will be adding antique collectibles such as jewelry, pottery, compasses, barometers, music boxes, and maybe a few old radios or phonographs. The only requirement that we ask of our sellers is, if they bring antiques, at least 60% of sellers items should be horology related.

We will, once again, have the "Free Clock and Watch Evaluation" that was so successful last year and so well received by the public. We will have a very nice display of fine clocks.

The Mart will be at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park. There is space for more tables than last year and we are a little more centrally located for people who come to our mart. We are gaining new members from Santa Barbara and we get great participation from our friends at Los Padres Chapter 52, even though they have to travel down the coast a bit.

Each attendee will get a ticket with their registration for the door prize drawings. This year our grand prize will entitle the winner to a "Family Boat Trip and Tour" of the Channel Islands. Second prize is a "Whale Watching Tour" for two, donated by Island Packers. Besides the Island Packers Tours, we will also have many other great prizes.



There will be carts and helpers for loading and unloading. The mart will be in the Santa Rosa room which is located near the entrance and close to the main parking area. There is free reserved parking for table holders and ample space for loading and unloading.

The middle of April means great weather, not too warm and not too cool. Our goal is to provide for an enjoyable day for everyone. See you there! ■



**The following are future courses that may be offered to those who are interested, and have the required prerequisites, for the year 2011.**

**FSW- 200** Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair Course Part I

Feb. 25-28 Coordinator- Giorgio Perissinoto

Phone 805 637-9810 • Giorgio@spanport.uscb.edu

**FSW- 201** Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair Course Part II

May 20-23 Coordinator- Giorgio Perissinoto

Phone 805 637-9810 • Giorgio@spanport.uscb.edu

**FSW- 103** Introduction to Chime Clocks

Apr. 29-May 2 Coordinator Laurie Conti

Phone 805 813-2216

e-mail: remember\_the\_clock@me.com

**FSW- 202** Lathe II Clock Repair Course

July 29-Aug. 1 Coordinator- Alan Davis

Phone 805-659-7148 • Jesoda.1@netzero.net

**FSW- 104** Introduction to weight and Fusee Driven Clocks

Sept 9-12 Coordinator Paul Skeels

Phone 805-525-7325 • piskeelatty@verizon.net

*Welcome New Members*

**Thomas and Sandra Rementer**

from Simi Valley

**Bryan Mumford**

from Santa Barbara

**Merl Meach**

from Ojai

**Frank and Wendy Huttlinger**

from Yorba Linda





# THE EXTRA PAGE

THE FIRST EVER WRIST WATCH REPAIR SUITCASE CLASS WAS SPONSORED BY 190



## FACES SEEN AT JANUARY'S MEETING *Photos by Bill Robinson*



***This month's Mini-Workshop***  
will be a double workshop. There will be a  
watch workshop led by ***Jorge Montoya***,  
and a workshop on the proper use of  
ball peen and brass hammers,  
Led by ***Jim Chamberlain***.

The workshops begins at 10:30 AM. Free to members





# 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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Serving All of Ventura County  
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### **The Tic Toc Shop**

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Repairs,  
Restorations  
& Appraisals.**

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**Jorge Montoya**

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Repair & Restore all American & Swiss watches.  
12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a  
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### **PACIFIC COAST CLOCKS**

**In business since 1977.**

Sales and Restoration of both new and antique  
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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

### **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](mailto:dave@daveswatchparts.com)



### **MicroSet Timers for Clocks and Watches**

Precision electronic timing tools for clock and  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
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*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**

### **- 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)

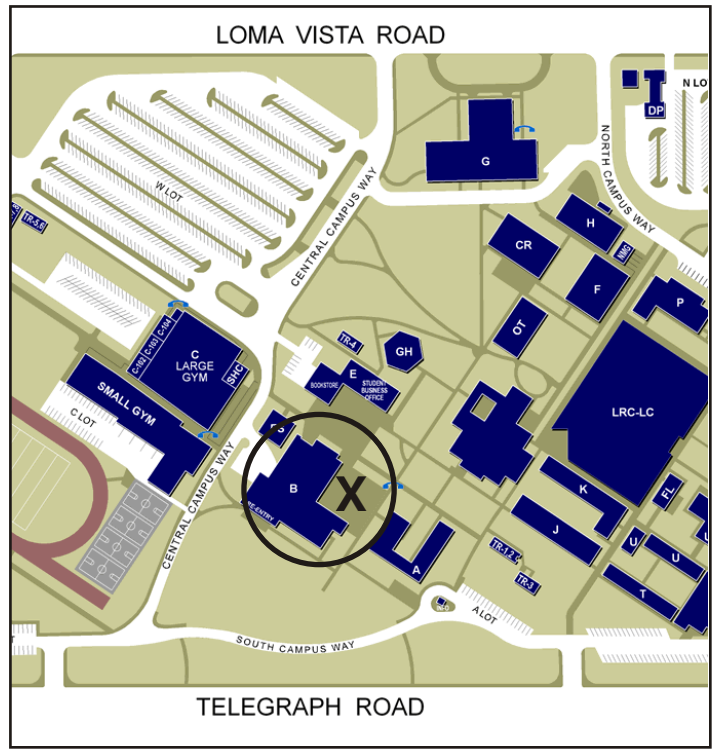
### **- Watch Repair Tools -**

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.



**February 2011 Issue**

**NEXT MEETING**  
**FEB 20**



**Chrono Times**  
 If Undeliverable return To:  
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 Northridge, CA 91325