



## \*\*\*BREAKING NEWS\*\*\*

*EDITOR: Ken McWilliams*

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) held their annual convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan this year on June 11 - 13.

Chapter 190 had the honor of being selected as *"The NAWCC Chapter of the Year."* The award was accepted by chapter member Ray Marsolek at the annual Awards Banquet.

There are over 160 chapters world wide and it is indeed an honor for our young chapter to receive this award.

From it's inception, chapter 190 has been dedicated to education, community service and to creating a first class organization. We have accomplished most of our goals as evident by our outstanding Website, Newsletters, Meeting Programs, Workshop Attendance, Community Projects, and overall membership involvement.

Over the years, I have been involved with many non-profit organizations and I have to say that chapter 190's Board of Directors is one of the most dedicated and hard working group of men and women I have ever been associated with. They represent our chapter well.

Success is the byproduct of member involvement, starting at the top with President Mike Schmidt and continuing down to the newest member.

Well done Chapter 190 members!

## My Latest Mart Find

*by Ken McWilliams*

I try to attend as many of the Southern California Chapter Annual Marts as possible. Most of the time I'm not looking for anything in particular but quite often something will find me. This was the case at our Mart in Camarillo last month.

As I was casually roaming around the mart, one of the sellers said, "Hey Ken, have you ever seen a movement like this?" I looked at it and my immediate answer was "No I haven't." Not only had I never seen one like this, I had never read about or ever heard about one. Naturally, it came home with me.

What made this movement unique was, it had a typical strip pallet recoil escapement (as used with many American clocks) but it had a balance wheel, instead of a pendulum.

The only marking on the movement was "Patented Oct 5, 1852" No clue to the manufacturer.

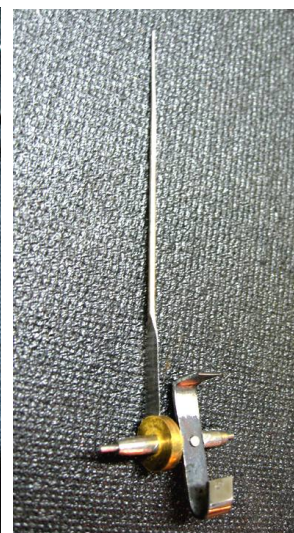
One of the things that I enjoy most about clock collecting is researching the clock's history. The first thing that I did when I got home was hit the internet to see what I could find out about it. Actually, that was the second thing. The first thing I did was disassemble, clean and adjust it. After re-assembly, I wound the main spring and it started running on its own and has been running ever since.

Back to researching the movement. Even though I had very little to go on, I was still disappointed when absolutely nothing turned up.

I decided to post it on the NAWCC bulletin board and see if any of our members had any info about it. Most of the comments I received were "Never saw one before, great find." The next day, I received this reply: "This was patented by S.B. Terry on Nov. 29, 1853 Patent number 10277."

I went to the Google Patent search, and downloaded a copy of the patent. Sure enough, this was my movement. But, I was puzzled why my movement had a different patent date. I went back to Google and now armed with the inventor, I found the Oct 5, 1852 patent. It was a very similar idea, except it used a torsion spring and dumbbell pendulum.

The photos below show the movement with the plate off and of the pallet/crutch assembly. The crutch is rigid in the driving direction but flexible in the other to accommodate the arc of the balance wheel. The balance wheel can only rotate about 160 degrees due to the crutch/pallet arrangement..



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dave@biswebdesign.com

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

I wish to thank all who worked and participated in the Annual Mart at the CAF World War II Air Museum in Camarillo. The mart was a success with 52 tables and 152 members and public attending.

It's been really a great pleasure to partner up our Clock & Watch Show with the CAF Air Museum. We all have a very pleasant experience with the ambiance of these unique historical aircraft and museum displays surrounding our tables of clocks and watches. Your entrance fees help support the restoration and maintenance of these wonderful aircraft.

Chapter 190 has started planning for the 2010 Show at the Air Museum. We will look forward with anticipation to see what completed historical aircraft comes from the restoration process to proudly meet our show attendees. Look for some interesting surprises for the 2010 event!

Chapter 190, with the support of its members and those who wish us well, has established itself as an entity for horological education and community good. Chapter 190, chartered by the NAWCC, is a non-profit incorporated organization with open meetings, financial reports, and a set of By-Laws that supports full disclosure of all chapter activities.

Your current "Officers and Board of Directors" have been responsible for the organizing and guidance of Chapter 190 and will be completing their third year on the Board. The current Chapter By-Laws calls for elections of officers and directors every two years, beginning in the year 2009. A nominating committee chaired by George Gaglini and two chapter members will begin the process of Elections. Nominations shall be opened at the July meeting and closed at the September meeting. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee or by oral nomination from the floor at either the July or August general meetings. If more than one candidate is nominated for the same office, a ballot will be sent out to the members. Winning candidates will be announced at the September meeting and installation of new Board members will be in November.

Why do we go to Marts? That question and others will be a subject for some fun at the next meeting. Great photography of the Annual Mart will be presented by Bill Robinson. Most of us were buying and selling while Bill was taking pictures. You will want to see what nice candid shots Bill was taking. The show and tell will be anything you want to share, items bought at the Mart or unusual Watch or Clock movements.

See you at the Meeting

*Mike*



## Happy Birthday

**Matt Bonaccorso, Darrell Jones, Harry Larson,  
Tom McKnett, George Perissinotto, Glen Webb**

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190  
is June 21, 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

"Highlights from Last Month's Mini Mart"

Presented by Bill Robinson

*For those that were there, come and relive it.  
For those that weren't there, come see what you missed.*

### SHOW & TELL

"Something you got at the mart"

## Chapter 75's Annual 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](mailto:RobertsClocks@verizon.net)



This month's Mini-Workshop will be  
"An open workshop with emphasis  
on pocket watches and answering  
clock and watch repair questions."

*This is an open forum workshop and will be an  
excellent opportunity to learn and share knowledge.*

The workshop begins at 10:30 am. Free to members

## CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### SHERLINE LATHE WORKSHOPS

Two spots have become available for the Basic and Advanced Sherline workshops. Jerry Keiffer will be the instructor. Jerry is a master model maker as well as a clockmaker. This is a rare opportunity to learn from the master as he doesn't get to the west coast very often.

*Basic Workshop - Sept 11 & 12, 2009*

*Advanced Workshop - Sept 13 & 14, 2009*

*For information call Ken McWilliams- (818) 718-8300*

### FIELD SUITCASE WORKSHOPS

**FSW 201** August 7-10 Beginning Lathe  
Contact Mike Schmidt, coordinator (805) 988 1764  
e-mail [EagleCreekClocks@msn.com](mailto:EagleCreekClocks@msn.com)

**FSW 103** September 25-28 Introduction to Chiming Clocks  
Contact Laurie Conti, coordinator (805) 813 2216  
e-mail [Remember-the-clock@mac.com](mailto:Remember-the-clock@mac.com)

If you are interested in learning clock repair, or know someone who might be interested, we are compiling a list of students for a beginning clock repair class. Contact Mike Schmidt e-mail [EagleCreekClocks@msn.com](mailto:EagleCreekClocks@msn.com)

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A major collector and Terry expert (who wishes to remain anonymous) asked me to send him additional photos for evaluation. Based on the relocation of the mainspring, balance pivot bearings and other clues, his conclusion is that this may well be the prototype for Silas Terry's patent. (Below is the sketch from the original patent.)

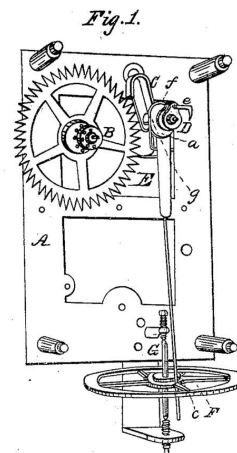
You never know what is going to turn up at the marts. Next month I'll tell you about another mart find. The pendulum goes to and fro, instead of side to side and it doesn't have an escape wheel or pallet.

I will have this movement at our next meeting for Show n Tell.

If you would like a copy of the full patent send me an e-mail and I'll send you this one and the torsion version.

My e-mail is:  
[internut@socal.rr.com](mailto:internut@socal.rr.com)

S. B. TERRY,  
Clock Escapement.  
No. 10,277. Patented Nov. 29, 1853.



# C.W. Groneman's Unique Pigeon Timer

By Dave Coatsworth

I recently acquired the timer shown in the photos below thinking it was just an ordinary two movement pigeon timer. Little did I know at the time that there was an interesting patented improvement to it and a story behind this, and similar, improvements.

The timer utilizes two Seth Thomas 18-size, 7 jewel, lever set, 'Century' movements. The design of this particular timer, and certain improvements to be discussed later, was patented by Carl W. Groneman in a patent awarded on January 13, 1914 (U.S. Patent Number 1,084,576).



A basic description of the operation of a homing pigeon race is probably in order since few of us have probably ever participated in one. The use and function of the timer will be discussed in this context. At the start, the pigeon handler brings his pigeon(s) and his timer to the race starting point. The judge sets the timer to a specified time that is then recorded.

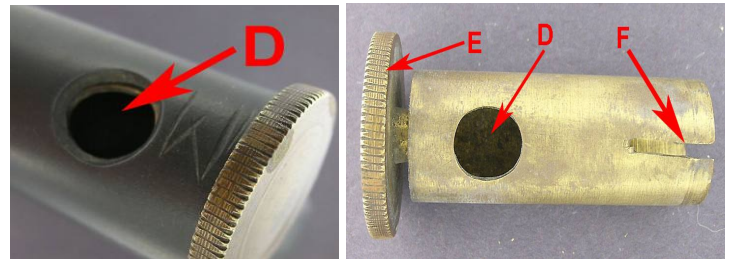
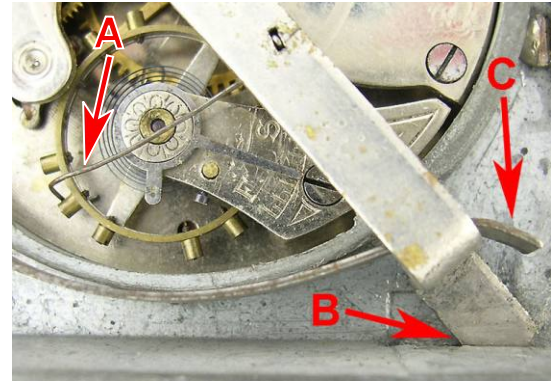


The timer movements are stopped at this time even though the movements are fully wound. The balance wheels are prevented from rotating by wire A, shown in the close-up photo of the balance assembly.

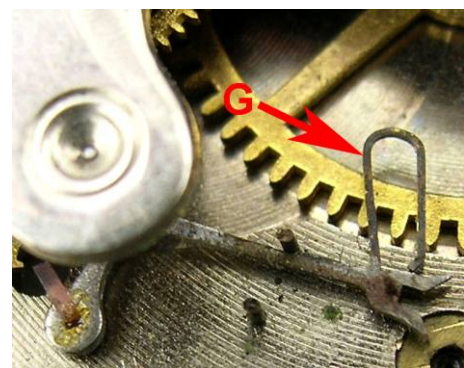
The cover is replaced on the timer and the judge seals the timer by placing a wire seal through the hole in the threaded bolt at the top of the timer. This seal prevents the timer cover from being removed and the movements from being tampered with. A unique tag is affixed to the pigeon's leg and the pigeon is then released at a predetermined and recorded time.

When the pigeon returns to its home, the handler removes the tag from the pigeon's leg, places it in hole D in the timer housing and then rotates knob E until hole D is closed. Rotating knob E causes the end of arm B to drop into the slot F in the tube. It is forced to drop into

this slot by spring C. When the end of the arm drops into the slot, wire A moves away from the balance wheel, causing the movement to start. The handler now takes the timer back to the judge at the race start point. The judge breaks the seal and opens the timer and checks the time compared to that which was originally set on the timer. The elapsed time on the timer is subtracted from the actual elapsed time since the pigeon was released. This gives the actual flying time.



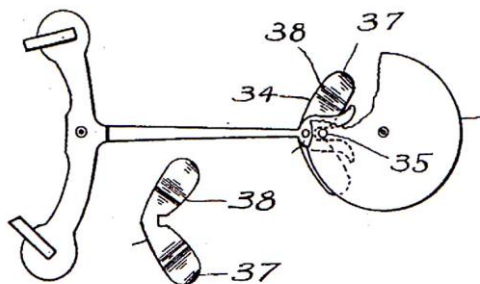
One of the key improvements in Mr. Groneman's patent is an anti-cheating device, shown in the pallet fork photo at G. Why the need for an anti-cheating device on the timer? If a watch movement is rotated quickly in the horizontal plane, it can cause the balance wheel to rotate beyond its normal amplitude and cause the roller jewel to hit the opposite side of the pallet fork, causing an extra 'tick'. Repeatedly doing this will cause the timer to run fast, thus recording more time since the movements were started and reducing the time that the judges think the watch was stopped and the pigeon was flying. This translates into a shorter recorded flying time.



The simple wire device attached to one side of the pallet fork will catch the roller jewel and stop the movement if the balance wheel over-rotates. *Continued next page*

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This creates a condition something like a 'tilt' in a pinball machine. It stops the movement, which will disqualify the handler if the timer is returned in this condition. The original patent shows a butterfly-like attachment which extends on both sides of the pallet fork. The wire device on one side of the pallet fork in this timer seems to be a manufacturing simplification over the device shown in the patent and should work just as well.



At this point, one has to wonder if cheating is really (or, was in 1914) a huge problem in the sport of pigeon racing. I happened to mention this timer and the associated anti-cheating device to my Australian watch collecting friend Ray Page. I was very much surprised when, the next day, I received an e-mail from him recounting the following story.

I can understand the desire to cheat in pigeon racing. In Richmond, where I lived as a child, pigeon racing was 'big time', like horse racing, Greyhound racing, etc. In those days, there were not official (government sanctioned) betting shops; only 'on course bookmakers'. These bookmakers and others also ran illegal 'Starting Price' (SP) operations, "Sly Grog", and the "Numbers racket", from hotels, private houses and back lanes. A lot of money was bet on pigeons and people would run up credit with the SP bookie. Of course if you did not 'square up', at the end of the week, you would have a visit by a 'Heavy', to collect the money, at your own peril. Also some bookmakers ran short of ready cash, and I am quite sure that they would have the pigeon arrival time 'adjusted'. A lot of these 'semi-criminals' from the early days went on to bigger things. One notable was John Wren from the slum suburb of Collingwood (next to Richmond), who became a very powerful and rich personality. He donated a lot of money to Government and the Catholic Church and had a mansion in Kew (up market suburb, and across the Yarra River from the 'Slums') across the road from Church headquarters 'Raheen'. For the greater part of the last century it was the home of the Archbishop of Melbourne. I, as a youngster, was involved in SP betting. I was a 'Nit Keeper', and my job was to keep watch out for the police at the end of a lane. If it was the wrong policeman, who was not on the 'take', I whistled and all traces of betting activity disappeared."

I, and many others, have often said that every watch or, more generally, every timepiece, has a very personal and interesting history. While this particular timer was not used in the pigeon racing in which Ray was involved, I have little doubt that it had an equally interesting story for someone in the early 1900's. ■

#### EDITORS NOTE:

*Even though our chapter is affiliated with the NAWCC, we are still an independent entity and must comply with the state and federal regulations that govern organizations like ours. We are solely responsible for establishing Bylaws, Incorporation, obtaining I.R.S. non-profit status, and a dozen other requirements. We didn't have a bank account that would permit hiring legal and business services to do this for us so we did it with member volunteers. Paul Skeels, our secretary and legal advisor, did the lions share of this work. The following is Paul's report on our Tax Exempt Status.*

## Chapter 190's Tax Exempt Status

*by Paul Skeels*

When Chapter 190 was organized and obtained its charter from the NAWCC Headquarters, the Directors decided to incorporate the Chapter and apply for tax exempt status.

On April 23, 2007 Michael Schmidt and I filed Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State. The Articles provide that Ventura County Chapter 190 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Incorporated is a nonprofit public benefit corporation. The Articles also provide that 1) the specific purpose of the corporation is to promote education devoted to the study, research and appreciation of timekeeping and timekeepers, and the preservation and collection of clocks, watches, and related items; 2) the corporation is organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and, 3) no substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Finally, the Articles state that the property of the corporation is irrevocably dedicated to educational purposes and no part of its net income or assets shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all its debts and liabilities shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized exclusively for educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3), Internal Revenue Code. That organization shall be the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc., if at the time it qualifies as a distributee.

After the Articles were issued and bylaws adopted, a comprehensive application, with various exhibits, was prepared and mailed to the Internal Revenue Service in Kentucky requesting that Chapter 190 be granted tax-exempt status. On March 10, 2009, the IRS issued a letter ruling that, 1) as of April 23, 2007, Chapter 190 is exempt from Federal Income Tax as a public charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; 2) contributions to Chapter 190 are deductible under section 170 of the Code; and, 3) Chapter 190 is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. An application for State recognition of this tax exempt status is pending.

***This is all good news for Chapter 190 and our members. Please keep Chapter 190 in mind in case you wish to make a tax deductible contribution.***

## Ventura Chapter 190 people

By Ken McWilliams



### Kathi Sheffrey

She was born Kathi Peterson at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles. Kathi was the third of eight children and, the only girl. (Now we know where she got her feisty, take-no-prisoners attitude.) Her family moved to San Diego when she was twelve, then five years later moved back to Glendale.

After graduating from Bellarmine Jefferson High School in Burbank, she went to work for the AT&T phone company. It was here that Kathi would meet her future husband, Clay Sheffrey. He was a telephone installer and would call in job status to Kathi. While they knew each other by phone for months, they never actually met. Then one day, at an after work get together, they met and hit it off right from the start.

They were married in 1971 and settled in Glendale where they still reside. Six months after they wed, the first addition to their family arrived, a 1932 three window Ford coupe. Antique cars and clocks would become an important part of their lives. (Kathi and Clay also have a grown son and daughter.)

Kathi's father made his living in the fire sprinkler business, but outside of work he was a "Mr. Fix-it" and could repair just about anything. He became fascinated with old clocks and watches and quickly developed a skill for repairing them. His collection grew over the years and was, no doubt, the source of Kathi's love affair with vintage clocks.

Kathi began collecting old clocks and enjoyed researching their history. Her thirst for knowledge grew along with the desire to make her own repairs. This led her to the NAWCC and chapter 116 in Santa Anita. She enjoyed the chapter meetings but they were held on a Wednesday and were often too difficult to make. Then she joined chapter 75 and really accelerated her clock education. She took many NAWCC suitcase classes, bought tools, books, and enrolled in the Kennedy High School Clock repair classes.

Today, Kathi has a very extensive horology library with both clock identification and clock repair books. She also has a very well equipped repair shop in her home.

When she and Clay are not bargain hunting at a Southern California Chapter Mart, they can probably be found traveling around the country attending car shows. Clay is a member of the "Road Kings of Burbank" car club. Those of you that were at our Mart last month in Camarillo had the opportunity to see Kathi's 1936 Ford Cabriolet. The photos are of their present cars, including the first one, the '32 Ford.

Kathi is a charter member of chapter 190 and we are very proud to have her and Clay as a part of our family.



*The first one, a "32" Ford coupe*



*Kathi's "36" Ford Cabriolet*



*Clay's Custom "49" Merc*

# CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

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## SERVICES OFFERED

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### ***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)

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12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a

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Monday through Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 pm.

**Tel. 805-650-8800**

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## FOR SALE

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### **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)

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## WANTED

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### **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**

### **- 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**

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

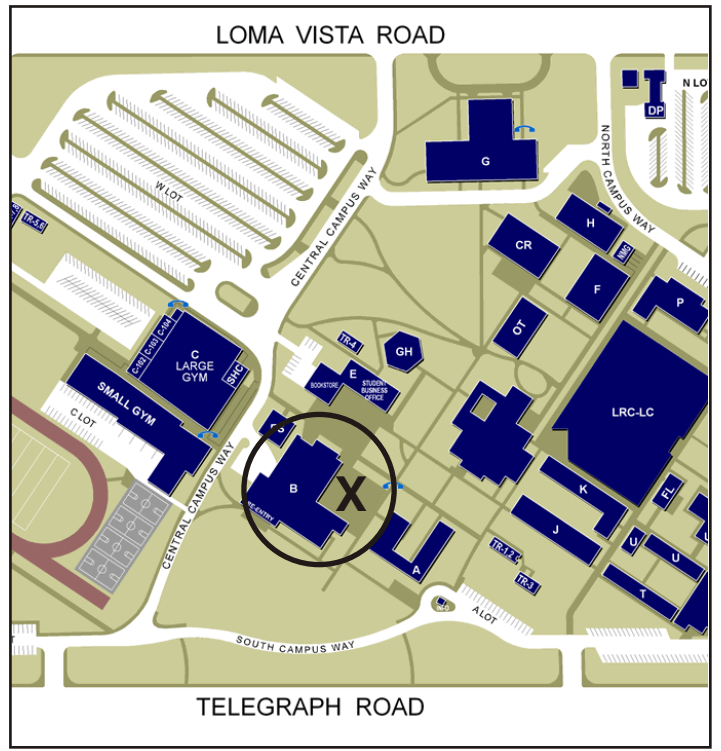
Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca.

Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.)

**Tel. 805-650-8800**

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!*

**June 2009 Issue**

**JUNE 21**  
**NEXT MEETING**

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

**Chrono Times**