

190. VENTURA COUNTY (CA)

**LOCATION:** Ventura College, Cafeteria, Building B, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura CA 93003

**When:** Third Sunday of every month, except December; mart 12 Noon, meeting/program 1:30 p.m.

**Membership Information:** Mike Schmidt, 805-988-1764

**E-Mail:** eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

The inaugural meeting of the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chapter 190 convened at twelve noon on January 21, 2007, in the cafeteria of the Ventura College. Anxious members began to arrive a half hour early! A mart opened the event with approximately 15 tables filled with horological items for sale. A separate set of tables held various styles and ages of clocks displayed by members.

Chapter 190 begins its history with 66 verified members. Seventy members and guests attended the mart and program, with 10 new chapter members joining at the meeting. One new member was signed for the NAWCC at the meeting, with this chapter already responsible for seven new NAWCC memberships! Additional applications have been received since the meeting.

**JANUARY MEETING:** President Michael Schmidt welcomed all and introduced the new chapter and its goals for the year to the 70 or so members present. Education of our members is the number one priority for the year. Mike introduced the board members, and the visiting guests from Chapter 75.

Chapter member Ken McWilliams gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on “The Morbier Clocks, Their History and Evolution” (also known as “Morez” clocks), and Toni Moss provided several examples of Morbier clocks from her collection demonstrating developmental changes over the years. Morbier clocks are the longest produced style of clocks in the world, being produced from approximately 1640 to the 1930s. Each member in attendance received a Morbier timeline chart detailing the style changes over the centuries to help more accurately date individual clocks.

**SHOW AND TELL:** During Show and Tell, member Paul Skeels passed around the Hamilton 992B pocket watch that originally belong to his father-in-law. This 1954 watch with stainless steel case is in perfect condition with its original braided leather strap. This watch started Paul on his horologic journey.



Jim Gilmore showed a Hamburg-American shelf clock, and James Chamberlain displayed an early Austrian mini-skeleton clock. James and Ferdinand Geitner surmise that this skeleton clock movement was made from pocket watch components.

New member Jeanette Barcroft displayed her French “Zenith” bank clock. Winding this thirty hour clock is accomplished by inserting a specific French coin and pressing down on a lever on the side of the clock. Depositing a coin each day keeps your clock running!

President Michael Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 3:05P.M. The next meeting will be held at the same location on the third Sunday of the month, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon. The February meeting program is to be presented by Ferdinand Geitner "Pocket Watches and Some Unique Repairs".

Chapter 190 member Jeanette Barcroft proudly shows her French “Zenith” 30 hour bank clock which is wound by the insertion of a French coin.