



## First Ventura Chapter 190 Meeting

It's finally here! The first meeting of the brand new NAWCC Ventura Chapter 190. Mark it on your calendar.

January 21st, 12:00, at the Ventura College cafetiere. (See map and directions on back cover) We will have a mart, business meeting, program, refreshments and door prizes. Admission is only \$3.00.

**Be our guest at this meeting.** You do not have to be a member to attend this meeting. If you have any interest at all in watches or clocks this is where you should spend your Sunday afternoon on the 21st.

Be a part of history. Everyone that has already joined, as well as anyone that joins at the inaugural meeting, will become Charter members in Chapter 190.

If you have any questions concerning the meeting or chapter please contact Mike Schmidt at 805 988-1764 or Ken McWilliams at 818 718-8300. ■

## How I Caught the Pocket Watch Bug

by Paul Skeels

In the early 1950's, when I was a kid, we lived for a few years in Sherman, Texas. One of my childhood memories there is of my father, an Air Force pilot, wearing a black plastic headband and visor with magnifying lenses and bending over the kitchen table to work on something. Recently I learned that he had been taking a correspondence course from the Kansas City School of Watchmaking.

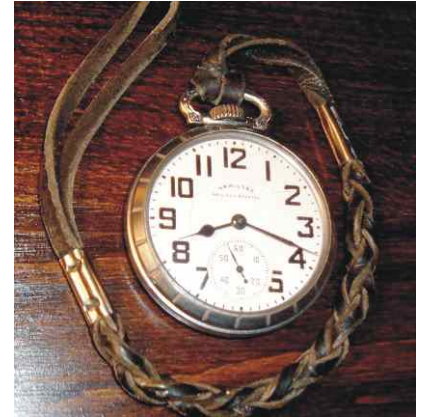


Texas was sandwiched between two tours of duty in Germany, so when I was growing up there was always a cuckoo clock and a 400 day clock in the house. I remember visiting my maternal grandparents in Glendale and observing my grandfather, a Southern Pacific locomotive engineer, carefully winding and hanging his pocket watch on a special stand each night. In the 1970's I inherited that watch, a beautiful Hamilton, but it was stolen in a burglary of our home many years before I really caught the bug.

My dad passed away in 1994. Last summer I came across his old watchmaking books at my mother's house. Three or four of the books had belonged to his father. One was inscribed "WB Skeels, Storm Lake, Iowa, 1906." I knew that my paternal grandfather had been a jeweler and optometrist, but I did not know that he had been involved with watchmaking. Another book, published in 1944, was a self-study course in watch repair which directed the student to procure a Hamilton 16 size watch on which to practice.

I found myself fascinated and quickly read the book cover to cover, wishing I still had my maternal grandfather's timepiece. Then I started on the other books.

One evening I told my wife I wanted to buy an old Hamilton pocket watch to work on. She quietly went to the closet and rummaged around in



The Hamilton 992B pocket watch

one of her boxes. A minute later she came back and handed me a small package. When I unwrapped it, I just about fell off the bed. It turned out to be her father's 1954 Hamilton 992B in a stainless steel case in perfect condition with its original braided leather strap. My father-in-law used it for years when he was a foreman in the citrus industry. My mother-in-law gave it to my wife for safekeeping and she had forgotten all about it. We wound the Hamilton a little bit and it started right up.

Maybe it was a genetic propensity, but that's how I caught the pocket watch bug. There is no cure. Blame my father, my two grandfathers, and my father-in-law.

I didn't think it was wise to use the 992B as a project watch, so I acquired a 956 through an on-line auction service and have been immersed in my new hobby ever since. I expect to learn much more about horology as time allows, and I look forward to meeting everyone as we launch NAWCC Chapter 190 right here in Ventura County.

If you're interested, maybe next time I'll tell you "What I Found in Dad's Old Gray Toolbox." ■

### Coming Events

Sunday, January 28th

Chapter 75 Mart and meeting, Granada Hills  
For information call Kim St Dennis (818) 349-8031

February 2nd & 3rd (Fri & Sat)

The Greater Los Angeles regional, Pasadena  
For information call Marshall Knowlton (805) 495-4794

Sunday, February 18th

Chapter 190 Mart & Meeting, Ventura  
For information call Mike Schmidt (805) 988-1764



## Ventura Chapter 190 people

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Each issue of our newsletter will feature members of our chapter with a short biography or some of their horological interests to help us get to know each other.

The next few issues will focus on our officers and board of directors. Get to know them, they are your key to making your ideas and opinions heard. We need your feedback, that is the only way we will grow and prosper.

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### **GEORGE GAGLINI**

#### ***Director, Membership***

Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, George earned his Masters Degree in Psychology in 1980. He founded Management Development Associates, a consulting and training firm offering courses in Leadership, Communications, Team building, and Business Ethics. As an assistant professor, he has taught masters level courses in Behavioral Science, Business Ethics, and Educational Philosophy at California Lutheran University and Azusa Pacific University. He is currently under contract with the Ventura County Human Services Agency to conduct courses in its Leadership Academy.

In the past several years, with the idea of repairing and restoring clocks in his private collection, George attended several NAWCC Field Suitcase Clock Repair courses conducted in the Los Angeles area. In August 2005, he and his wife Donna purchased The Clock Gallery; a Ventura County based clock repair company in continuous service since 1973.

From playing with clocks instead of toys as a baby, to wishfully pressing his nose against Boston jewelry store windows containing Atmos and Chelsea clocks in his childhood, to his quest to buy up the world's supply of antique clocks, George has finally evolved from a collector/hobbyist to a clock business owner and Board Member of the new NAWCC Ventura Chapter #190.



### **DONNA GAGLINI**

#### ***Treasurer***

Originally from Oklahoma, Donna completed an under graduate degree at the University of Colorado and moved to California where she accepted assignments in accounting and operations at Warner Bros's International Video Division in Burbank, California. Moving to Ventura County in 1989, she served at the County Health Care Agency as an accountant and as a clinic office manager.

Later, Donna spent several years as operations manager for non-profit humanitarian organizations providing medical equipment and supplies to orphaned children, the elderly, and the poor in several Eastern European countries. She was a team member in a study of psychological effects of



the care giver system on children in orphanages in Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. She was a Board Member/Treasurer for the Ventura County Partnership For Safe Families and Executive Assistant for First Five Ventura County until 2005.

When she and George married in 2002, Donna thought it strange that George wanted a prenuptial agreement from her that stated "whatever he had was also hers". She soon learned that George meant the hundreds of clocks he had "rescued" over the years. When the opportunity presented itself to purchase The Clock Gallery, a clock repair/restoration company, she figured it was her opportunity to finally learn about "her" newly acquired treasures. Donna is a Board Member/Treasurer of the new NAWCC Ventura County Chapter #190.

## **The Greater Los Angeles Regional**

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***The annual Greater Los Angeles Regional is being held at the Pasadena Convention Center February 2nd & 3rd. (Friday & Saturday) This is one of the largest watch and clock marts in America.***

***Mart hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm***

***For the first time in it's long history, the general public may attend the mart on Saturday Feb 3rd.***

***No membership is required for Saturday.***

***NAWCC members may attend both days.***

***Tickets for Saturday may be purchased at the Pasadena Center box office for \$10.00.***

***Located at 300 E. Green St. Pasadena***

**Visit our website at: [greaterlaregional.com](http://greaterlaregional.com)**

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**The first Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190  
will be January 21, 2007**

**Sellers may start setting up at 11:30**

**The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:30**

**The Meeting starts at 1:45**

#### **PROGRAM**

**by Ken McWilliams**

**French Morbier Clocks. Their History & Evolution**

***(A time line guide to aid in dating the Morbier  
will be given to all attendees)***

#### **SHOW & TELL**

***Bring anything that you would like to share with us***

***NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2007***

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# The Information Highway

By Ken McWilliams

Recently, after printing a data sheet from my favorite online Elgin data base site, I wondered how I ever got along before the internet. I needed data for an old Elgin pocket watch I was considering buying. Armed only with the movement serial number, I was able to determine, in a few seconds, that the watch was made in 1904, it was an 18s, grade 214, code o3n81, 1000 were made that year (24,000 total), first year of mfg-1899, last year-1911, class 89, name: VER, 23 jewels, adjusted: a-a5p. It also noted that the grade 214 was the first 18s model 8, the first 18s 23 jewel, & the first 18s jeweled motor barrel and that it was a railroad grade.

The movement had a broken balance staff but it was clean and did not appear to have been mistreated. The case was a gold filled hunters in very nice condition with no brassing or initials. Based on this, I gave the guy the \$85.00 he wanted for it. So, for \$85 and a couple hours of my time I now have a \$400 to \$500 watch.

I use the internet for so many things every day. It is such a tremendous source of information. I take it for granted now and assumed that everyone else did too, until I overheard a conversation recently stating that "other than e-mail and Ebay the internet was pretty useless". So I guess maybe everyone isn't aware of this resource and how easy it can be to use. To that end, I have assembled a list of a few of the many watch and clock websites that I use and a brief description of their content. Most of them will have links to other related sites that you can explore.

**www.bhi.co.uk** *This is the British Horological Institute website.* It is loaded with helpful information and has links to many other quality sites. Click on the Horological Journal tab and you will be able to view and print some excellent horological articles.

**www.Nawcc.org** *This is the NAWCC site.* I had better not leave this one out. The resource that I use most is the "message board." If you need help with a clock or watch related problem, part, or identity, you will have hundreds of fellow members to help you resolve it. It can also be very educational to just read other members inquiries & comments.

**www.abbeyclock.com** *This is Mark Headrick's Horology Site.* Mark is a clock repairman in Austin Texas. It has an annoying animated realtime clock that follows your cursor around, but don't let this stop you from exploring. Clocks and watches are covered. This is a very good instructional site. Lots of how to's on clock repair, watch repair, tools and buying tips. It also has links to many other good horological sites. Don't miss the animated escapements. Every major escapement is shown in motion.

**www.clockwatch.de** This is an unusual German site. I'm not sure what Volker Vyskocil's purpose was for creating it, but I list it because it has some very good animations in the "Theory" section and plans for making an excellent graver sharpener.

**Www.atmos-man.com** *This is Mike Murray's web site.* Mike is an expert on Atmos and Anniversary clocks. You can easily spend hours here, even days if you go to all the links to other sites. He has a companion FTP site that is accessible from his home page. The FTP site makes it easier to save or print the various articles. It's not a pretty site, but it is loaded with useful information.

**www.antiqueclockspriceguide.com** It's a lot to type in but once you get there you will find an excellent source for recent clock sale prices. Most of the resources are free but to really benefit and view prices, you must subscribe. Cost is: 3 days-\$4.95, 1 month-\$9.95, 1 year-\$39.95. If I'm considering buying a clock I usually consult three places before I buy. The Ebay previous sales search engine, Tran Duy Ly's books and this site. There are over 25,000 clock photos in it's database.

**www.elginwatches.org** Simply the best source of information on Elgin pocket watches. Type in the serial number of the movement and it will give you a wealth of information on it.

**www.shorinternational.com** *This is I. Shor's website.* It is geared toward the jewelry maker but it has many clock and watch supplies as well as hard to find metalworking items. They have over 20,000 items.

**www.arlingtonbooks.com** One of the best sources of watch and clock books on the internet.

**www.execulink.com/~lfoord/index/tools** *This is Uncle Larry's Watch Shop.* It has a good selection of clock, pocket watch, and wrist watch materials. They also have a good selection of used tools.

**www.ofrei.com** *Otto Frei's site.* A good source for Clock, Watch, and Jewelry supplies, parts and tools.

**www.user.dcnnet.com/joco/** This is a good site for identifying 400 day clocks.

**www.roger-russell.com/jeffers/jefmotr.htm**  
A very good site if you need repair info on the Jefferson mystery clock. Don't know what it is? Go to the site, I'm sure you will recognize it.

**www.perpetualpc.net/clocknotes.html**  
An Online Clock Repair help site with a lot of good information.

**www.timesavers.com** Timesavers is our closest large clock supply house. They have a great selection of popular clock parts and supplies. They also sell antique and new reproduction clocks.

**www.merritts.com** Merritt's is another quality clock and parts supply house. They have a large supply of used antique movements. They too sell antique and new reproduction clocks.

I could go on but I think you get the idea. There are a lot of resources available to us on the internet. Don't be afraid to tap them. If you have a favorite site send it to me and I'll add it the next time I update this list. ■

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*Coming soon; A how to guide for buying and selling clocks and watches on Ebay. Learn how to recognize scams and translate ebayese into the truth.*

# CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

There are two ways to get your ad listed here.

1. The quickest way is to e-mail it to [internut@socal.rr.com](mailto:internut@socal.rr.com). Text should be in MS word, MS notepad or RTF format. If you want to have a photo in the ad attach it to the e-mail. (JPEG or TIFF Format)
2. Bring your ad to the monthly meeting and give it to Ken McWilliams or Mike Schmidt. Pictures can be scanned into your ad at no charge. If you want it returned provide a stamped self addressed envelope.

When you create your ad remember to describe the item or service clearly. When possible, include prices. ALWAYS include a way to contact you. Phone number and e-mail address if you have one. Just give us the information and we will help with the layout. If you prefer to create your own ad, provide it in an EPS format or hi res jpeg.

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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)

**(805) 565-9097**

### **Jorge Montoya**

### ***Complete Watch Service Center***

Repair & Restore all American & Swiss watches.

12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a

complete shop with all the latest equipment.

**(562) 531-0545 • (562) 688-6171**

E-mail: [jorgemont2001@netzero.net](mailto:jorgemont2001@netzero.net)

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## WANTED

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**Looking for a particular clock, watch, tool, part service etc.**

**You may get lucky here.**

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## FOR SALE

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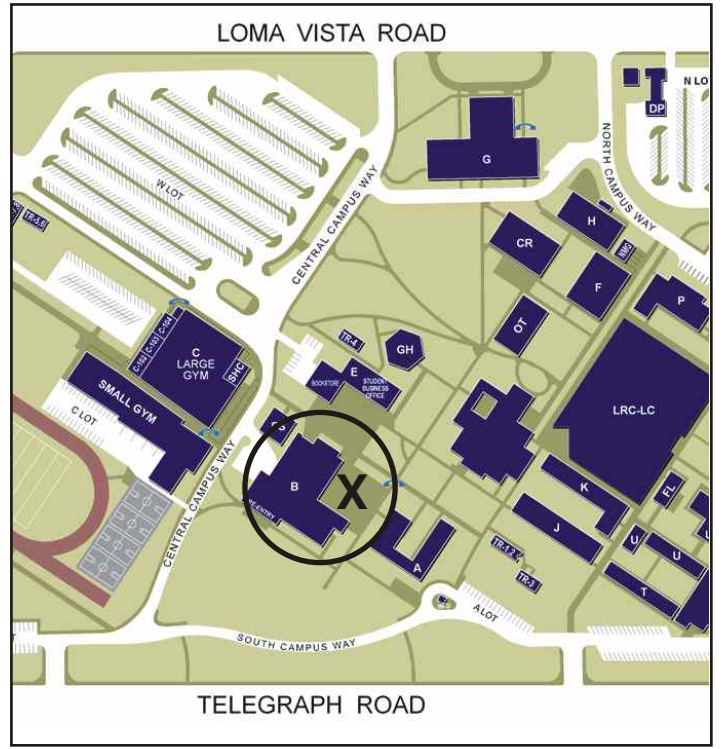
**Need to dispose of a clock, watch, tool, excess stock?**

**Someone may be looking for just that item.**

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", west of the gym and athletic field.

If you get lost, Mike Schmidt will have his cell phone on Sunday 805 758 0702.



*Hope to see you there!*

*January 2007 Issue*

**JAN 21**  
**MEETING:**  
**INAUGURAL**

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

**Chrono Times**