



A Little History

by Ferdinand Geitner

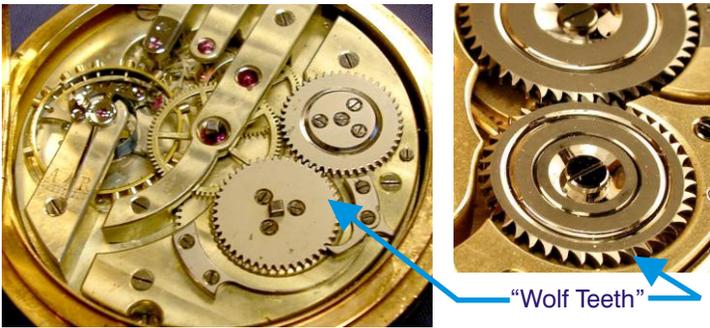
I received a very unusual Pocket watch which prompted me to do some research and it revealed some interesting history of the previous owner. I was informed that the item came from the McCormick estate.

After examining the movement, I found it to be finished exquisitely; the springs and levers are satin finished on top with polished edges. The winding wheels were not cut with the usual involute style teeth but rather "Wolf Teeth," which sport a smooth curved working surface in front and a strong curve on the back. This sort of detail is only applied to high quality movements. There are no names or numbers anywhere.



Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809 - 1883), from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, is credited as the inventor of the Mechanical Reaper. His Father saw the potential, and worked on a horse drawn version for over two decades. He based his work on that of many others including several Scottish and American men.

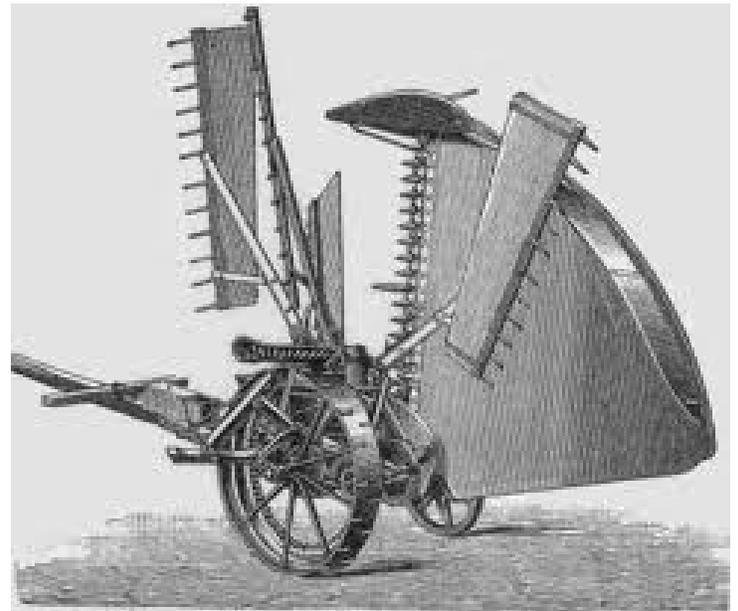
His son, Cyrus, and Jo Anderson, a slave of the family, continued working on the project and eventually succeeded. Cyrus filed for Patents for the invention, and was granted a patent on the reaper on June 21, 1834. His main achievement wasn't the invention but rather the successful development of the company and a strong sales force to market his product.



An additional very unusual feature is the hairspring, it is helically wound. (see picture below)



Initials are embossed on the leather case and in gold on the watch lid. Underneath the backing in the leather case, the manufacturer of the watch supplied a spare hunter glass and a spare mainspring. These are parts which are the most likely to fail, and are handy for the next repair person.



The introduction of the reaper reduced human labor on farms while increasing productivity. It contributed to the industrialization of Agriculture and the migration of labor to cities in many countries.

On Cyrus McCormick's death in 1883, 54,841 Harvesters had been produced and his wealth was estimated at 11 Million ■

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

Chapter 190 has been offering many educational opportunities to Chapter and NAWCC members. We will continue to offer workshops as demand dictates. Presently we are offering FSW301 "Beginning Pocket Watch Workshop" and FSW302 "Beginning Wrist Watch Workshop." See details in this newsletter. Soon to be scheduled for those who have completed the FSW102 we will offer a FSW103, "3 Train Chime Clock Workshop".

Five interested NAWCC members have indicated that they wish to take the FSW 101 "Beginning American Clock Repair Workshop"; and as soon as we locate 2 or 3 three more students we will schedule this workshop. If you wish to take any of the above workshops or any others please contact me at EagleCreekClocks@msn.com.

Chapter 190 has become known as the education chapter. Our offerings of Field Suitcase Workshops and monthly meeting workshops have been well received and continue to help grow our chapter membership. To continue that growth and tell the story of clock and watch collecting the chapter has embarked on a new educational project; "Bridge to Membership". We are introducing a two-day workshop that will be accessible to the general public; NAWCC membership not required. The workshop is titled "Introduction to Antique Clocks, The history, collecting, theory, care and repair of clocks". The workshop will be limited to ten students, all tools, study materials and clocks to be supplied. The cost will be \$70 for a two-day workshop.

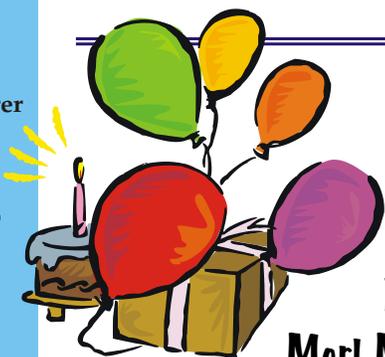
REMINDER - A special event you will not want to miss. The October meeting will be held in Santa Barbara at the historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse. The meeting will begin in the Mural Room. A lunch and a guided tour of the Courthouse and the BISNO-SCHALL clock gallery will be the meeting. The lunch will be hosted by Chapter 190. The meeting will start at 11:00 AM and will conclude at 2:00 PM.

The October event is for Chapter Members, family and invited guests only, and will requires reservations. For all who wish to arrange carpools I will provide a list of all who are attending prior to the event. Please email me or phone with your RSVP. before September 22nd, at 805 988 1764 or email EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

To support the total mission of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors the Board of Chapter 190 in July gave an unrestricted donation of \$500.

The Sunday morning clock workshop begins at 10:30 am. The beginning topic for the August round table discussion will be "Swinger Clocks and other challenging Clock Problems". The leaders for this discussion will be George Antinarelli, Jim Chamberlain and Paul Skeels. Everyone is welcome to bring their clock repair questions. The coffee will be on early.

Mike Schmidt



Happy Birthday

John Berney, Alan Bloore,
Jim Chamberlain, Bill Frank,

Royce Hulsey, Ken McWilliams,

Merl Meach, Ralph Napolitano, David Potts

Clock Shop Storage

by Paul Skeels

It didn't take long for the shelves, plastic boxes, drawers, and indeed all horizontal surfaces in my cramped little workshop to be covered with a mish-mash of little zip lock baggies and boxes full of screws, tapered pins, etc. New mainsprings from Germany and India lay haphazardly in piles. Spare movements were stuck here and there. One shelf space even held a miscellany of small clock parts that had gradually accumulated over the course of several years in situations where no place could be found to re-install them during the course of repair.

Electric soldering irons and a gas torch, along with containers of solder and flux, occupied one area, along with tapered wedges of wood and plastic for leveling cases. Used mainsprings lay heaped in cardboard boxes in a corner. New and used quartz watch batteries and watch crystals lay in semi-assorted positions across another shelf. Specially-made tools and brass projects from Ray Marsolek's Field Suitcase Workshops were all over the place. The watchmaker's bench I bought from Dave Coatsworth was being used as a test area for 400 day clock movements.

You get the idea. In short, what started as a neat, compact and orderly operation had descended into chaos. My poor office manager wife Linda would enter the shop area and rush back out in dismay. Even my six-year-old grandson Anthony despaired of finding peace and relaxation in comparison with earlier days when he enjoyed sitting and playing with a little single train Urgos movement.

One day a solution manifested itself, in the form of a Folgers coffee container made out of red plastic with a snap fit black lid. After removing the coffee label I used my computer to print out a mailer-type label with the name of the parts to be stored in the coffee container and, voila! A terrific little organizing and storage system! We started buying more Folgers coffee just to get the containers.

Later on friends, relatives and customers started bringing in other sizes of Folgers red (and green) plastic coffee containers. A larger green one holds all my soldering iron, torch, spare gas canisters, solder and flux.

Of course, now I need to find space to store all the empty extra red and green coffee containers. And the boxes of used mainsprings? ■



FACES SEEN AT JULY'S MEETING



Dave Weisbart presenting his program on "Music in Clocks & Clocks in Music"



Celebrating Chapter 190's "Chapter of the year" award.



Robert Gary and Giorgio Perissinotto

Gary Girod



Gary is retired from the Ventura County fire department where he retired as the Training Director. He then went to work for a private contractor providing training to various fire departments. He was stationed at the Ojai Fire Station and still lives in Ojai. He and his wife Judith have two daughter who also live in Ojai with their families. Gary and Judith have four grand children living in their same city; how lucky they are! Here is Gary's story, how he got interested in clock repair.

My wife was given the family clock from her grandmother as a wedding present in January 1960. It is an 8 day Session, time & strike, circa 1910. It had been sitting on a shelf for years but had not run since her grandfather passed away 1945. I've always enjoyed all things mechanical so I studied it until I figured out how to get it going.

Years later, my father gave me his mother's Seth Thomas, time & strike. The story goes that she kept it running by soaking the gears and springs with kerosene dabbled on with a chicken feather if it acted up. So we have family clocks from both sides to pass down to our children.

My greatest pleasure as a clock repairman is to restore a clock that has been in a family for generations. Every person who brings one to be fixed has a story about their clock.

A second clock incident and the one that got me hooked was a knock on the door in the fall of 1960. I was a rookie fireman assigned to the Rincon fire station and living in La Conchita. A teenage boy, from the neighborhood, was holding a box and said, "Mister, do you want to buy a clock? I need some gas money."

In the box, all in pieces, was a clock. I said, "Is it all there?" "Yes, I think so," he replied. I offered him \$2.00. That bought 8 gallons of gas back then. He was happy for the gas money and I began a hobby that continues to this day.

The parts turned out to be a bronze Ansonia, open escapement (Arion) ca1886-87. It cost about \$40.00 new. The value today is approx. \$700-\$1,000. After getting it back to running order, the only thing missing was the broken leg of the statue. I solved the problem by carving a peg-leg and it has been that way ever since.

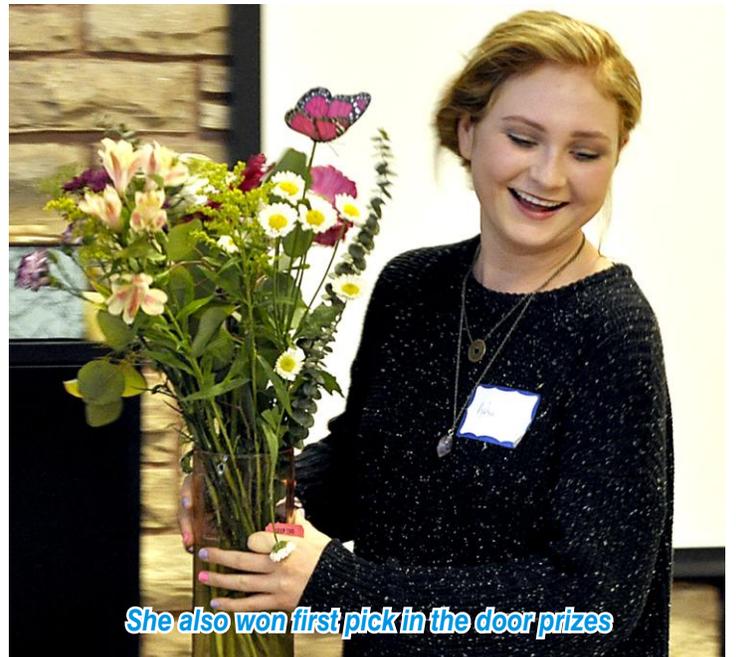
I may have inherited the "clock gene". While in Madrid, Spain in 1958, I visited a large jewelry, watch and clock store named after the owner, Girod. And more recently, on a vacation in Paris with my wife, we found the phone book had many pages of Girod names.

A study of early European watchmakers produced several Girod names. Gaspard Girod, Paris 1670-1690; B Girod, Paris 1810; Gaspar Girod has an astronomical watch in the British Museum ca 1610; James Girod (French) watch about 1660 signed Jacques Girod a Copet Bracket clock about 1700 inscribed James Girod, London

Today I have a large room behind my garage where I work. I don't advertise but somehow I always have someone bringing me their clock to be repaired. It is a hobby that I enjoy and the repair donations go to an orphanage of 300 children in Mancherial, India that I support, which is run by a missionary friend. ■



Monique Jenson shares some of her "Clock Art"



She also won first pick in the door prizes

Tales From the Bench

by *Ferdinand Geitner*

Why a maltese stop can make a watch/clock run better

The Fusee was an effective way to compensate for the lack of elasticity in old steel Mainsprings. When the quality of steel improved there were still some variable power curves which needed to be addressed.

The early escapements were more susceptible to larger fluctuations in timekeeping with power variations, cylinder escapements have higher friction and require smoother continuous power. To get the most even torque out of a mainspring which has a lot of torque when fully wound and tapers off rapidly towards the end, the maltese stop was designed to use only the middle part of the mainspring and stop before it could be wound fully. It restricts the mainspring from winding completely, stops it before it is wound fully and again when it reaches its weaker end therefore using the flattest power curve possible.

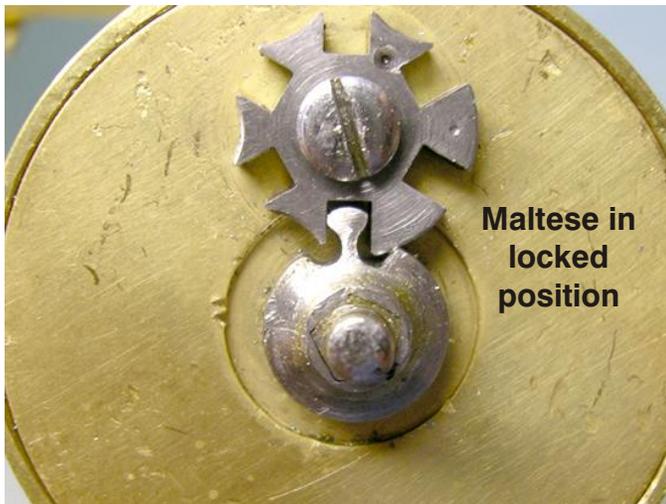
The stopwork was used in small watches and on quality clocks. In clocks, only the escapement side is needed, not the striking side. Nobody cared if the strike worked a little faster or slowed down but the clock had to keep exact time, which requires constant and even power.

New mainsprings are manufactured to compensate for power variations and no longer need additional help. The older blue steel spring is set in a closer spiral and has lost much of its power, the other (modern) spring is also a used spring but still has its end curved the opposite way to compensate and increase torque towards the end of its unwinding cycle. The power compensation is built in.



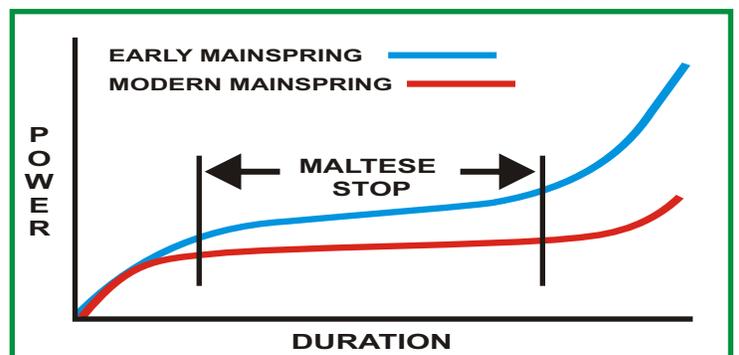
Above: Used old style mainspring

Below: Used new style mainspring



The mechanism had its drawbacks and if not set up correctly affected duration and could lock up. Many repairers would remove the parts and one will find many clocks and watches with parts missing. The barrel lid has a notch to lock it into position so it does not turn accidentally when the stop locks in mid winding. Sometimes repairers miss this and damage the lid or part of the barrel trying to close it.

One problem I came across on a clock barrel was the locking pin in the barrel was slightly deformed over the years and after winding several times would let the barrel lid slide up just enough to tilt it a fraction and locking the tight barrel lid bearing on the arbor stopping the clock, tricky to diagnose.



This improvement in materials can backfire if one builds an old style fusee clock with modern springs or replaces an old fusee spring with a new one because the Fusee compensates for a spring that no longer needs compensation and therefore overpowers the escapement when it gets to the end (usually making the clock gain time). ■



CHAPTER 190 NEWS



In October, Chapter 190 will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Santa Barbara courthouse. Private tours of the Courthouse and the Clock Gallery will be provided, as well as lunch, all at no charge. This will be a special day, by invitation only, for chapter members, family and invited friends. Please mark Sunday, October 21st on your calendar for this special event.

Space is limited, and RSVP is a must so that we can plan seating and lunch. Contact Mike Schmidt to reserve space. Phone: (805) 988-1764
E-mail: EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190 is August 19, 2012

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 Terry Family"

Presented by Virginia Norwood

One of America's first clock makers

SHOW & TELL

Letter "I", Ingraham, Illinois, etc

This Month's Mini-Workshop

At 10:30AM,

"Swinger Clocks"

This will be an open forum, moderated by
George Antinarelli, Jim Chamberlain, & Paul Skeels

THE WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

*If there is a topic that you would like to learn about,
just mention it at the workshop. We are always looking
for good topics for the workshops.*

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The following workshops will be scheduled for 2012 and 2013:

Sherline Lathe Workshop - Intermediate tool making.
Instructor: Ken McWilliams (Date to be determined)

FSW 301 Beginning Pocket Watch Repair Workshop-
December 7-10, Instructor Ferdinand Geitner,
Contact Mike Schmidt 805 988 1764
email: eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

FSW 302 Beginning Wrist Watch Repair Workshop
-January 11-14, 2013, Instructor Ferdinand Geitner,
Contact Zaki Salahuddin 805 654-8552
email: phoenix@cimm.net

FSW 101 Beginning Clock Repair, Dates to be
announced, Instructor Lex Rooker
Contact Mike Schmidt 805 988 1764 email
eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

F510 Clock Camp I- This is 2 day course for students
who have completed the F101 and 102 and want a
Refresher course of that material

F511 Clock Camp II- This is a 2 day course for students
who have completed the 103 and 104 and want a
refresher course for that material

***Suggestions for chapter 190 workshops,
demonstrations, or programs are always welcome.
Contact any board member with your ideas.***

Mart Note:

Ernie Jenson and George Antinarelli will
bring a new batch of items from Jim Ingersoll's
workshop, and Dave Coatsworth will be adding
additional watch and clock material from two
recently acquired estate lots to his mart tables.

Welcome New Members

**Mark, Mike, and
Tim Davenport
from Northridge**



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
Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a
Montecito (one block from old site)
(805) 565-9097

The Clock Gallery

George Gaglini

Serving Ventura County and More . . .
Expert Repair - Service - Restoration
Grandfather - Wall - Mantel - Marine - Atmos
House Calls - Packing & Moving
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theclockgallery@roadrunner.com

The Tic Toc Shop

**Clock
Repairs,
Restorations
& Appraisals.**

Ken McWilliams
(818) 718-8300

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.
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E-mail: jorgemont2001@netzero.net

PACIFIC COAST CLOCKS

In business since 1977.

Sales and Restoration of both new and antique
clocks. Repair of all types of mechanical clocks.

Loren Miller proprietor.

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



MicroSet Timers for Clocks and Watches

Precision electronic timing tools for clock and
watch repair with many unique features. Prices
start at \$250. Full information is on the website:

www.WatchTimer.com

Mumford Micro Systems
3933 Antone Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-5116

WANTED

I just acquired a very nice wall clock case.
Unfortunately, that's all I have.
I need a movement, weights and pendulum.
The pendulum should be one meter and the
movement should have a true seconds hand.

Ralph Napolitano, e-mail: RalphNapolitano@msn.com
Ph: 805 509-2530

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

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.

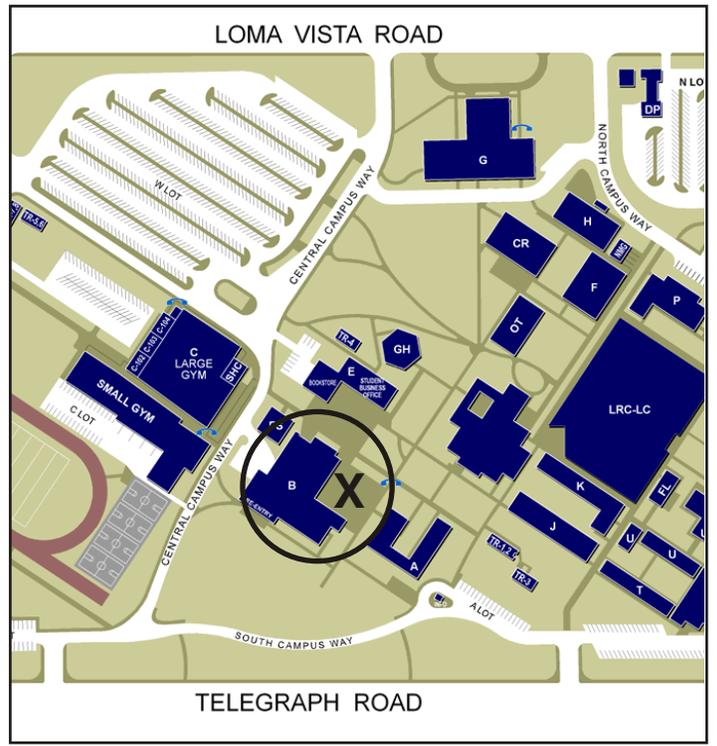
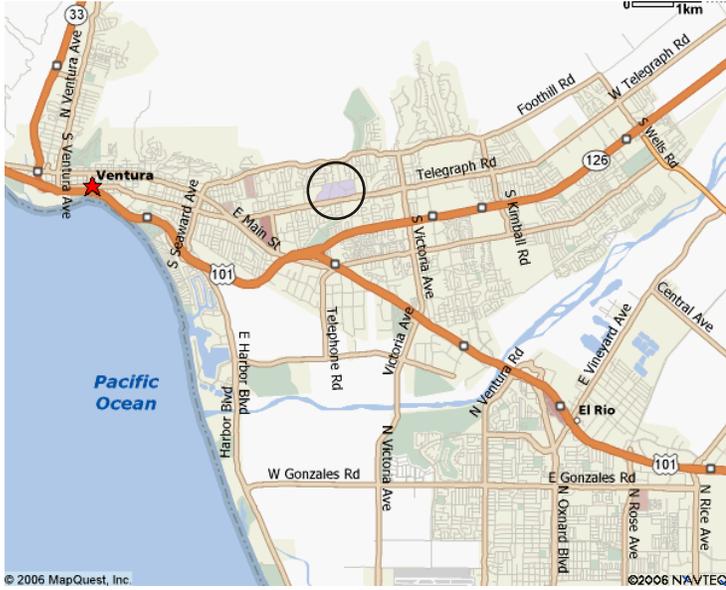
Bob Reichel, welchdoc@yahoo.com **Ph: 1-206-364-7374**

- 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

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.



August 2012 Issue

NEXT MEETING
AUG 19



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