



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER No. 2008-04

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## President's Message

I guess Fall really is upon us; I just took a trip to New London, CT for my Coast Guard Academy 35th Reunion and the change in the leaves was evident. If you're a sports nut (in addition to being a watch or clock nut), this is perhaps the best time of the year. College and professional football are in full swing; we are in the middle of the baseball playoffs (perhaps to the World Series by the time you read this); the hockey season has just opened; and it is almost time for basketball to start. The next regular scheduled meeting is on November 12th, which ends up being our last meeting of the year (we don't meet again until January).

Bob Rothen asked us at the last meeting, and I reiterate here, please provide input on what subjects you would like to learn about in future programs, and ideally a potential speaker. Armed with that information, Bob will beat the bushes until he gets the program you want. A man of his word, Bob got Lloyd Lehn, owner of the Cuckoo Clock Hospital in Annandale, VA to present on cuckoo clock repair based on a suggestion at the last meeting. How's that for responsiveness! Also, consider making a presentation yourself at one of our meetings. Your presentation doesn't need to be fancy or unique, and you don't need to be a preeminent expert; all that's required is for you to have an interest and some degree of expertise in the subject you want to present. Often presenters find they get more out of the experience than the audience (and I mean beyond the free meal!) It is a fun and rewarding experience, both for you and for the rest of us as we share our knowledge.

For those who have been procrastinating, please pay your dues now! I am afraid that for anyone who has not yet renewed, this will be your last newsletter, and I really don't want it to be. Dues remain only \$8 and include a free picnic every year; where are you going to find a better deal than that?!

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other dangerous places throughout the world (and there seem to be more of those all the time, not even including Wall Street). The financial crisis that we all are feeling, along with the upcoming elections, have moved Iraq and Afghanistan to the back pages of the news and the tail end of the national newscasts, when they appear at all. In some ways this is good as it indicates fewer losses of American lives, but in others, it's easier for the American public to forget about their tremendous sacrifices. We continue to owe these soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen our complete support and admiration; they and their families deserve our respect, trust and gratitude for their service. Whenever you see a service member in public, shake his or her hand and say "thank you." This small action will mean more than you might imagine. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home. Also, please exercise your right and privilege to vote; it is one of the most sacred and important rights we have, and one that our service members are fighting for today.

Lou

**Don't miss our next meeting on  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008,  
at the Cozy Inn**

For more information about the chapter, you may contact the Pres. Lou Orsini by email [oh2batc@verizon.net](mailto:oh2batc@verizon.net) or (703) 352-7260.

Feedback or questions pertaining to the Newsletter should be addressed to Al Bush at: [agbush172@verizon.net](mailto:agbush172@verizon.net) or 410-531-5307.





# Meeting Minutes

*Chapter 141 Minutes, 9-10-08*

The September 10, 2008 meeting of NAWCC Chapter 141 was held at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, MD. The Mart commenced at 5:30pm and a buffet dinner was served at 6:15, followed by a short business meeting. Chapter 141 decided to support the NAWCC Science Olympiad with a \$100 donation, provided there will be local events. Paul Krichten, Co-Chair of the up-coming 2008 Mid-Eastern Regional meeting, promoted that meeting and asked for participation. Neil Amrine, Treasurer, reported that even after bearing all the costs of the summer picnic, the chapter has a positive balance, and is in good financial shape.



*Dr. Frank Goad*

The program for the evening was a presentation by Dr. Frank Goad entitled, Railroads and Timekeeping. It was a very interesting integration of the relationships of the railroad safety issues in the 19th century, the creation and evolution of standards, and the technical responses of the watch industry. Twenty-six members and guests attended, and Jack Terry won the 50/50 raffle.

**George Hudson**  
*Acting Secretary*

# Treasurer's Tidbits

*"Hello" from your Treasurer*

Hi folks! I ask that all members to continue to send in their dues, if they are not fully paid. Also, I have received approximately (10) dues checks since Lou sent out a reminder note. More come in every other day or so..! Contact me at Neil54@aol.com, or call me at 301 229 2587 if you have questions. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Cozy's in November. Please be prompt with your RSVPS for the meeting reservations.

Thank you!  
Neil Amrine

*Attention: It is important also to keep **Joe Joyce (josephjoyce@comcast.net or 301-865-8464)** advised of any change in your membership information, address changes, etc. We cannot keep you informed if you don't keep us informed.*

## FREE STATE CHAPTER 141 Membership Renewal Application

*National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC No. \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual dues are only \$8.00. Please make checks payable to **Free State Chapter 141**. Please send your check and this completed form to: Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, MD 20816.*

**Phone: 301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com.**



# Do you have an interest in clocks or watches?

Come to our next meeting on November 12, 2008, at the Cozy Inn

## CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2008

*Meeting (dinner) is 6:15 pm. Mart: come early for the mart. Business/Program follows dinner.*

We will have Dr. Lloyd L. Lehn as the speaker. Lloyd is one of 65 Certified Clockmakers (CC) in the USA (American Watchmaker-Clockmakers Institute). He is a trained Horologist and has published multiple articles and produced DVDs on the subject and is a member of AWCI. He established and is the owner of the original Cuckoo Clock Hospital in Annandale, VA. ([www.CuckooClockHospital.com](http://www.CuckooClockHospital.com)).

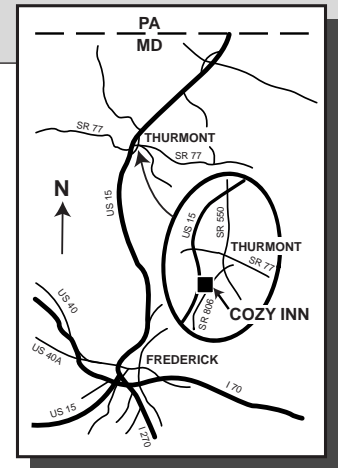
Lloyd's talk will be on Cuckoo Clocks. He will describe a cuckoo clock trip through the shop with an eye to costing out the work to give you an idea about charges for the work. This will be a very interesting talk and those members who had suggested this as a talk topic should find it extremely appealing.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Come out and join us for a pleasant evening.

**Bob Rothen**

**Meeting Reservations:** You may use the meeting reservation form below to mail in your reservations for Free State Chapter 141 meetings. Please indicate the meeting date as you complete the form. You may also make reservations via e-mail to [neil54@aol.com](mailto:neil54@aol.com) and providing Neil Amrine with the information on the meeting reservation form or by calling Neil directly at 301-229-2587.

**Directions:** Cozy Inn is in Thurmont, about 16 miles north of Frederick. Take Route 15N if coming from Frederick or 15 South if coming from PA. Take the Thurmont ramp to MD806 and go east on Thurmont Blvd (right if traveling north, left if traveling south) for about a quarter mile, then take a left on Route 806 (Frederick Road) heading north. The Cozy Inn is 0.4 mile on the left. For additional directions, please call the Cozy Inn at 301-271-7373.



### Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form

Reservation for meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest names \_\_\_\_\_

Number attend. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Mart tables \_\_\_\_\_ (mart tables

Make checks payable to: Free State Chapter 141 and mail to: Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, MD 20816 (free)

Phone: 301-229-2587; email: [neil54@aol.com](mailto:neil54@aol.com)

MD 20816

### National Science Olympiad

Our group has made a donation to the National Science Olympiad. To become personally involved, you will find the state directors below for PA, MD, and VA. Tell them you are a member of the NAWCC, which is a sponsoring group of the Science Olympiad problem "Its About Time" and you want to volunteer. They can provide you with information regarding participating schools in your area. **Pennsylvania:** Mr. Richard S. Smith, 460 Prospect Road, Springfield, PA 19064. (610) 544-0645; <http://projects.juniata.edu/scioly/index.html>. **Virginia:** Scott VanBenschoten; <http://www.virginiaso.com>. **Maryland:** Al Causey- State Director; [info@marylandscienceolympiad.org](mailto:info@marylandscienceolympiad.org); [www.marylandscienceolympiad.com/Site/Home.html](http://www.marylandscienceolympiad.com/Site/Home.html)



## Tick Tock Tech Tips

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### *Some thoughts on Repair, Restoration and Conservation*

When I start to work on a clock there are questions I ask myself. Today I'd like to share those questions and thoughts about clock repair, restoration and conservation. I believe this can be applied to watches as well. My comments are basically my thoughts about what one should probably do. The opinions of different people involved in the conservation and clock and watch repair differ as to what constitutes various degrees of repair and restoration. What I give you is my opinion and what I most likely would do in a given situation. Each solution is based on the facts associated with the time piece, its background, history, state of repair, and any available information. I expect the casual collector may lean more toward repair while the purist will be on the side of conservationism.

First, we need to define repair, restoration and conservation. Repair is defined in the dictionary as "fix or mend something - to restore something broken or damaged to good condition." Restoration is defined as "restoring of something to former condition - the restoring of something such as buildings or furniture to an earlier and usually better condition." Conservation is described as "protection from change - the keeping or protecting of something from change, loss, or damage." If I am going to repair a timepiece, that means I am going to repair it to an operating condition; at the same time attempting to repair its appearance to an acceptable standard which may be more or less than what it was originally. The result will be something that looks acceptable and will hopefully keep time in a reasonable fashion. It could even include some modification and would not necessarily be researched for original configuration. Consider that some clocks and watches were originally designed and built to keep much more accurate time than others and the degree of craftsmanship will vary. So in a repair I would attempt to repair the clock as near as possible to its original capabilities. As an example for a clock case, or watch case, I would attempt to rework the case so that it's no longer falling apart and looks presentable to sit on a shelf or table, and provide protection to the movement. In the case of a watch this might be replacing the bow, the crystal, the face of the watch or the entire case. In a repair, parts may be replaced with parts that are not necessarily original such that the clock or watch might not look as it did originally, but would be functional. For the movement, the necessary cleaning, oiling, polishing of pivots and so forth would be done to bring it back into operation. If necessary, replacement parts would be used without too much concern for what the original configuration was, but with the idea of making the movement operational again. This could involve replacing the entire movement with a new one. For a repair, the idea is to make it work and be functional but not always preserve its historical value. You should try to do nothing to the timepiece in the repair to prevent restoration or conservation of it at a later date unless you have made the decision not to allow for that future restoration or conservation.

If we carry this one step farther and attempt what I would classify as restoration, you would consider all of the things mentioned above and more. The goal is to keep all elements of the timepiece as original as possible. Any deviations should be discernible to a trained eye. You would do such things as replacing missing filigree and trim on a clock case near as you could to the original configuration. The condition of a clock case might be such that it has been improperly varnished or shellacked over original finish (even multiple times) or treated with Tung oil or the case has been stripped. So you would restore it to what you think it was originally. With the restoration you might research to establish how it was originally finished. You would not replace the movement with a new one, but would restore it to operation. Replacement with an identical refurbished movement is not ideal but might be considered in some instances. You may have to manufacture a new replacement part to keep the original movement working. Depending on the situation you need to decide if you want to restore it to the original condition as it came out of the manufacturers or clockmaker's shop or keep the nicks and scars it has acquired through history. Do you restore it as it was at some point in time? Do you refinish it? Do you preserve the patina it has accumulated over the years? Do you correct modifications made over the years by an amateur who did less than a craftsman repair job on it? If it is not working and you have to lose some of those historical signatures to put it in working order or do you leave it as it is; a non working artifact? I cannot answer these questions for you. The answers depend on what you want to do with the timepiece. You do need to think about those questions before you start the job.

Some of the above questions apply to both restoration and conservation which are closely related. Restoration should, but does not always allow for conservation at a later date. Conservation requires much more study, research, care and concern for any restoration to be done. The idea is to conserve the timepiece in its original condition by taking action before significant damage or deterioration has occurred. Any rework should use materials identical to those used to manufacture the timepiece, in some cases even using tools of the type used in the original manufacture. Improvements in quality of the timepiece should not be made since that would not reflect the original workmanship. While you may be able to restore a timepiece yourself, in most cases you probably should seek professional help for anything you wish to conserve. Conservation also involves storage and display environmental conditions. These should be closely observed to insure the timepiece stays in good condition over very long time intervals (centuries). AGB - 200809