



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

Chapter 141

Officers

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Lou Orsini

Vice President

Bob Rothen

Treasurer

Neil Amrine

Secretary

Patsy Rothen

Newsletter Coordinator

Al Bush

Registrar

Joe Joyce

Board of Directors

George Hudson

Frank Goad

George Tresansky

For more information about the chapter, you may contact the President Lou Orsini by email oh2batc@verizon.net or phone 703-352-7260.

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

April / May – No.2009-03

President's Message

I just love this time of the year, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom; the weather is generally nice and getting better; flowers and plants are starting to bloom (with all that pollen - ugh!); the basketball and hockey playoffs are beginning, while the baseball season is about to kick off with all the optimism for those poor old Nationals and Orioles. Speaking of optimism, our annual **joint meeting with Chapters 11 and 12 in Woodsboro on April 25** brings with it the promise of great sales and great buys for everyone. What better way for each of us to stimulate the economy in our own small way as clocks and watches change hands in a true win-win situation. For the seller, this is an opportunity to change an item no longer wanted into cash, while the buyer happily adds a missing piece to their collection at a price they recognize as very fair. Add to this an exciting program by Chapter 12 President **Joseph Orens** on "The Making of Modern High Grade Watches", and April 25th promises to be a wonderful time for all. If you happen to miss this event, or didn't sell all your stuff, please bring it to our **regular meeting on May 13th** for another opportunity to keep the economic pump primed.

As you will see when you read the meeting minutes further on in the newsletter, our March Meeting was another good one with a tremendous program by **George Hudson** on repairing wood works clocks, and some great sidebar discussions, many of which even involved clocks and watches. George was nice enough to share his PowerPoint presentation with me, which I will make available to any member who would like to view it, but I must warn you that it is 13MB, so not really conducive to e-mailing unless you have a high speed connection and the space for it on your hard drive. **Bob Rothen** has done it again, coming up with an outstanding program for our May

13th meeting, titled "CELLULOID IS BEAUTIFUL". The presenter will be Joe Abrams. Joe is very knowledgeable on celluloid clocks and it is sure to be another interesting program you will enjoy.

Since the last newsletter was printed, we have been fortunate to **welcome four new members**, three of whom joined us at the March meeting. Please join me in welcoming aboard **Randall Cleaver** of Takoma Park, MD; **Michael Cummings** from Littlestown, PA; **John Rose** of Baltimore, MD; **Norman Withrow** from Bethesda, MD; and returning member **Harry Bowie** of Timonium, MD. Please introduce yourself to them at our next meeting if you have not already done so.

I am pleased to announce that we filled our new slate of officers for another two years, and you will note that the slate looks very familiar with all officer positions remaining in the same hands except for Secretary. Your officers for the next two years are: **Lou Orsini, President; Bob Rothen, Vice President; Neil Amrine, Treasurer; Patsy Rothen, Secretary; Al Bush, Newsletter Editor; and Joe Joyce, Registrar**. First, thanks to all who agreed to continue serving Chapter 141 and to Patsy Rothen for agreeing to take the job as Secretary. And a special thank you to **George Hudson**, who took the position of Secretary on an interim basis when we lost our prior Secretary in mainstream. George brought many positive changes to the officer corps, and in particular by making the job of Secretary less challenging as he recruited Al Bush and Joe Joyce to fill positions previously performed by the Secretary. With the creation of these new positions of Newsletter Editor and Registrar, the workload was better distributed making it easier for all to serve. On behalf of all Chapter 141 members, thank you George, Al, Joe, Bob, Neil and Patsy!

Speaking of Patsy Rothen, she is looking for

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at The Cozy Inn

President's Message Continued.

donations of old neckties to make a quilt - here is a great opportunity to recycle some of those old ties that not even Goodwill wants. Just bring your neckties to the next meeting and see how they magically turn into a quilt at a future meeting. Thanks.

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other dangerous places throughout the world. We are seeing a gradual movement of our troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, as conditions in Iraq continue to improve, while those in Afghanistan continue to slide. The

United States are in both countries for the long term, not only to improve America's security, but to help these countries move from tribalism into democratic nations. It is a difficult, costly and largely thankless mission, and our service members are carrying it out with incredible effectiveness through their brave and humane actions. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home.

Lou Orsini, president

Chapter 141 Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2009

The March 11, 2009 meeting of Chapter 141 was held at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, MD. The Mart commenced at 5:30, followed by dinner at 6:15. We were glad to welcome back our president, Lou Orsini, who conducted the meeting with 37 people in attendance. New members and guest were in attendance so everyone introduced themselves and gave what their interests were. It was announced that Patsy Rothen was the new secretary who would be trying to fill the shoes of George Hudson. The new slate of Officers were presented and approved by the membership. Announcements included the Annual Woodsboro Tri-Chapter meeting and information on the new Internet Chapter 192 whose meetings will be conducted strictly on the



internet. Members were reminded that ballots for the NAWCC National election are in the February issue of the **BULLETIN** and all were encouraged to submit their votes for their 4 candidates (rather than 6 as specified in ballot). Attention was called to the current publications on the Lincoln watch and the information was made available for all who were interested.

The program was "Wooden Movement Repair Techniques" presented by George Hudson. It centered around Connecticut woodworking movements and about preserving old clocks for the future. Mr. Hudson discussed parts originally making up wooden clock movements as well as normal problems found in these workings. George listed tools he used to make repairs and the appropriate restoration sequence. We were all informed of the proper equipment, cleaning products and procedures to use to properly clean wood works movements.

Patsy Rothen, secretary

Treasurer's Tidbits

FREE STATE CHAPTER 141
MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS

Date _____ NAWCC No. _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

As of January 2007 Annual dues are only \$8.00 payable to Free State Chapter 141. Please send your check with this completed application to: Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
Phone:301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com

Hi folks!

I would remind all members that dues will be June 30th. Also, thanks to everyone for timely RSVPs for the meetings. Contact me at Neil54@aol.com, or call me at 301-229-2587 if you have questions. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the meeting reservations. We need to know the head count for the meal so reservations can be made.

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.

If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to our next meeting—May 13, 2009, at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MAY 13, 2009



The program for our May 13th meeting will be titled "CELLULOID IS BEAUTIFUL". The presenter will be Joe Abrams.

Celluloid, as it is known in the United States, has been with us since the 1850's. Made from a class of compounds created by combining nitrocellulose and camphor, it is generally regarded to be the first thermoplastic. The clock making industry early on recognized the material as being perfect for some clock cases. Joe will explain the process and illustrate this important facet of clock design with examples from his own extensive collection. He is a significant resource of information on the subject. It should be a very interesting and informative talk. We're looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Come out and join us for a pleasant evening.

Bob Rothen

Meeting Time is—

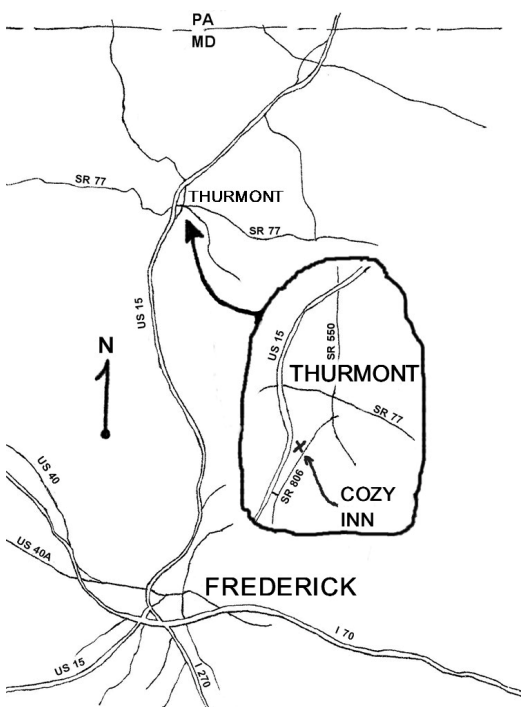
Dinner: about 6:15 PM Mart: Come early for the mart
Business/Program: Follows dinner

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 and providing Neil Amrine with the information requested on the meeting reservation form or by calling Neil at 301-229-2587 and informing Neil directly.

Please RSVP at least 48 hours before the meeting date.

Cancellation Policy: Our policy on meeting cancellations is simple. If the Frederick schools are closed due to inclement weather on the day of our meeting, we will cancel. Otherwise, you can expect the meeting is on. In the event of a cancellation, Neil will try to contact everyone who has made reservations (especially those who don't live locally), but it's all based on the school decision.

Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form



Reservation for Free State Chapter 141 Meeting on _____

Name _____ Guest Names _____

Number Coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

Number of Mart Tables _____ (Mart Tables are Free)

Please make checks payable to **Free State Chapter 141** and mail to Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
Phone: 301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com

Directions (see map at right): 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 restaurant is about 0.4 mile on the left. If you need additional directions please call the Cozy Inn at 301-271-7373.

Tic Toc Tech Tips

Wooden works repairs

Since listening to the excellent talk on wooden works clocks presented at Chapter 141's March 2009 meeting by George Hudson, It seemed appropriate to address that subject in Tick Tock Tech Tips at this time. I was interested to hear George's comments on using pins to reinforce the teeth/leaves on wooden wheels. As it turns out I had restored a wooden works clock a few years ago before I had the advantage of George's experience. I restored two or three teeth on two or three wheels and all worked well. I did use the wedge technique as George described to replace these and the process was very satisfactory.

However, one pinion had two leaves missing and I felt its diameter was rather small to use the wedge or notch technique. The pinion was integral to the arbor and I did not want to make a new arbor and pinion. I knew that reinforcement rods work to reduce failures in concrete. Why not in wood? I decided to replace the two leaves using reinforcement pins. However, in doing this there are some factors that need to be considered. I am sure these are some of the considerations George has in mind when he does not recommend this approach. They are; wood and metal have different coefficients of expansion, wood expands when it absorbs moisture and it is often more difficult for glue or adhesive to attach dissimilar materials. One example problem is that using a reinforcement pin or rod could cause the wood to split because of dissimilar expansion factors.

With these things in mind I carefully selected a small sewing needle for its rigidity as the reinforcement pin and used a drill of matching diameter. I wanted a close fit but not excessively tight. Then I chose to use superglue as the adhesive since it should be less receptive to moisture effects and adhere well to both the metal and wood. I did not have cherry wood in this case, so I cut a piece of dogwood to the correct thickness, squared it to fit against the wheel and missing leaf on the pinion hub. Next I drilled appropriately spaced holes in the center of it's thickness for the pins. Then I transferred these measurements to the pinion and drilled it. I measured and cut the needle to length to make the two pins. Any burrs from cutting the pins should be removed so the pin will insert easily. After placing a small amount of glue in one hole in the blank and a sparing amount of glue on the first pin, I inserted it in the blank. I did the same with the second pin, placing it in the pinion. Be sure to place it in a hole that will match with the empty hole in the blank. After the glue has set, make a trial fitting to insure the new leaf will fit tightly to the pinion. Check the measurements for leaf length and width, remove it, cut and trim to size. At this point it is good to also round the tip of the leaf to its proper shape. Next place a small amount of glue in the holes and sparingly on the pins. Also place glue on the mating edge of the new leaf where it fits against the pinion and place some glue

as well on the edge that fits against the wheel. Insert the pins in the holes and press into place. Be sure it is extending true and radial from the arbor. Allow the glue to set then check fit and "final trim" if necessary. Stain to match the wood colors if needed. I used the leaf blank such that the grain of the wood ran radial to the center of the arbor which provides more resistance to splitting from rotational forces. The photos show the wheel and leaf blank, the fitting and the finished repair. I also

show a technique for drilling the holes in split teeth still in place on the pinion. This repair was similar in that a piece of a needle was used in a drilled hole with superglue and it is barely visible when finished. The split leaf was first glued back together. Based on this experience I would suspect that one could satisfactorily use this technique in repairing most broken leaves. However, I would point out the factors mentioned previously which are still valid concerns for this type of repair. If the wood shrinks it could cause failure such as splitting of the leaf, particularly if the hole was drilled undersize. So unless you have a special situation, I would bow to George's 40 some years of experience and definitely stick with the notch-tooth replacement and carpenters glue on wheels. Usually homes are temperature and humidity controlled, thus should not have large variations. This should be positive for repair longevity.

The topic of humidity and wood shrinkage or expansion is very important in wooden works clocks. D. R. Bailey was a member of Chapter #104 when he wrote an article for the Bulletin on "Clock Woods and Some Effects of Humidity on Wooden Wheel Clocks". In this article he discusses the types of woods used for various parts of a wooden works clock and presents charts with characteristics of the various woods such as density, where used, shrinkage and talks about wood cuts (quarter-sawn, plain-sawn), seasoning and much more. If you are interested in wooden works, I highly recommend it for your reading. It appears in Feb 1997, Vol. 39/1, W#306 NAWCC Bulletin. It was based in part on a lecture presented at the first Australian Regional, Sydney 1994. If you do not have his issue, you may obtain it on loan from the library or perhaps a Xerox copy of the article.

There are two other references that George suggested to me. One is the "Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc, October 1980, Whole Number 208, Vol. XXII, No. 5, Part 1" (in this issue Snowden Taylor provides identification and classification of the wide variety of wooden works clock movements). The other one is "Eli Terry and the Connecticut Shelf Clock, Second Edition, Revised, Kenneth D. Roberts & Snowden Taylor" available in the NAWCC Library in Columbia, PA or available for purchase at the gift shop.

Al Bush 200903

