



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

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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.

December / January – No.2010-01

President's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

'Tis the holiday season - a time of joy, warmth, giving and goodwill - attributes I hope we can share throughout the year. It is also a very busy time that can cause stress if you're not careful; so relax and enjoy your holidays and use the time to recharge batteries (while searching for that special watch or clock at a bargain price, of course). And with Old Man Winter breathing heavy down our necks, I will take the opportunity to remind everyone of our bad weather policy regarding meetings. If the Frederick schools are closed on the date of our meeting, we will cancel - otherwise the meeting is on! If you have any doubt, call Neil Amrine and ask.

Our program this time, as it is every January, is everyone's opportunity to be a star during our annual "Show & Tell". Bring something rare, odd, unusual, sentimental, beautiful, ugly, or mysterious - anything with a story you can tell and/or a horological item that will generate questions and comments. Tell your story and invite others to comment. If you have an item that you cannot figure out what it does or how it works, then bring it along and ask others to apply their knowledge and experience to solve the mystery. This is perhaps the meeting where we can have the most fun, but

that all depends on you! Unless you participate, either as a presenter or a commenter, the program won't work. **As an added incentive, I will have three prizes to present;** ostensibly for best of show, most unusual and most humorous, but the categories are pretty loose in their definitions. The idea is to bring stuff to talk about with fellow members and have fun while we learn from one another. Please come to the meeting and bring along one of your treasures.

I really hope you enjoyed our November program despite some technology challenges; many thanks to **Frank Goad** for rescuing us. We seem to have difficulty getting watch programs, and this was a very good one from an expert in the field of Hamilton watches. **Howard Lasser** really enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie we showed him, and has agreed to make another presentation next year.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan**, as well as other dangerous places throughout the world. Since 9/11, of the 1.9 million Americans who have deployed, 876,000 are parents, 245,000 have been away twice, 91,000 three times, and 48,000 four or more times. As you are well aware by now, we are surging in Afghanistan to stabilize the country before we start withdrawing in another 18 months. This is occurring

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at The Cozy Inn

President's Message Continued.

as we slowly draw down in Iraq after much recent success. My most fervent hope is that this area of the world becomes more stable and democratic, and ceases to be a threat to the U.S. In the meantime, we depend upon our dedicated and professional military and other government officials working and fighting to protect and defend U.S. interests worldwide. These folks are your sons and daughters, neighbors, friends and family, and very

much today's heroes. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home, and look for opportunities to say thank you whenever you can.

Lou Orsini, president



Chapter 141 Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2009

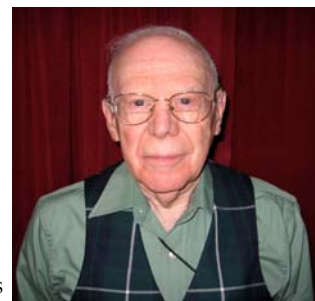
Freestate 141 held their 11 November 2009 meeting at the Cozy Inn in Thurmont MD with approximately 35 members attending. The Mart was started at 5:30 pm with many interesting items. Lou Orsini, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm by asking each person to stand and introduce themselves and tell something about their interests. Because of the date, each person was also asked to state if they were a Veteran. Visitors, too, were asked to tell a little about themselves and their hobbies and interests.

Tom Mostyn started the meeting off with the interesting fact that the Marines were founded on 10 November 1776 in a bar. The WoodWeb.com website was given as a site that will answer questions about woods - such as how to finish, cleaning out worms, etc.

Tom also gave a great "Show and Tell" on a clock he was working on. The owner had the original receipt for the clock maker and case maker who were different people. Thomas Morton made the movement and Thomas Mason was the case maker. Tom had original receipt, which was in a glass frame. It was dated

6/26/1795 and showed the buyer to be John Styles.

Our evening presentation was given by Dr. Howard Lasser. He is considered an expert on Hamilton watches and has written several books. He gave an interesting slide presentation on various watches and explained how they were tied to the Railroad System which was started in 1905 following development of the trolley system. He provided many interesting stories about the need for complex watches so trolley cars didn't run into each other and how this need inspired the development of many movements. By the way, the motormen were upset about having to pay \$3.00 for one of these complex watches.



The evening was enjoyed by all. Next Meeting: 13 January, 2010.

Patsy Rothen, secretary (12/8/09)

FREE STATE CHAPTER 141
MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION
National Association of Watch & 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

Treasurer's Tidbits

Hi folks!

As always, I would remind all members to send in their dues, if they are not fully paid...

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 March. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the picnic 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
January 13, 2010 at the Cozy Inn**

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 13, 2010

Annual Show & Tell: A chance to share your knowledge, experience and/or good fortune with the rest of us. Rules are simple; all you need to do is bring any item related to horology to the meeting and tell the other members what you know about it. There are no restrictions on what you bring or how you present it. Tell us about something in which you have expertise, or you can bring something you don't really know much about, and use this as an opportunity to challenge the rest of us to figure out what you have. To entice you to participate, we will award **three prizes to those participating in the Show & Tell**. One prize will be given for the **best presentation**; another for the **most unusual** item; and a third prize for the **most amusing** story or item. This program is always enjoyable, and it's even more fun when you get personally involved. Don't miss the chance to share with and learn from others. These are always interesting meetings. 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. (Several Radio & TV stations in the region carry closure information including WMAR 2, WTTG 5, WJLA 7,

Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form

Reservation for Free State 141 Meeting on _____

Name _____

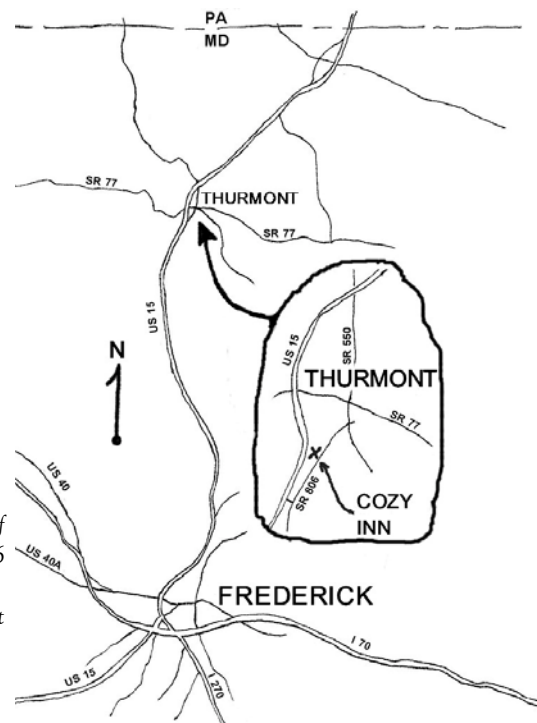
Guest Names _____

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: 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

Bench Tips—

As most of you know, my primary interest is in clocks. It takes a good eye and a steady hand to work on small intricate movements found in watches. I appreciate, enjoy and marvel at the beautiful craftsmanship found in quality watches. My first encounter was with a nonworking gold cased watch with flip covers on both front and back. Being an adventurous 12 year old, I wondered if I could make it tick again. When I flipped open the back cover and pried open the lid, I was excited to see the scroll work and shinning jewels. That little wheel that goes back and forth wasn't moving. Nothing seemed to be loose. Was it bound up? Wow, those little screws are hard to get out. Oops! It's attached to that springy thing. Well nothing is bound up. I'll put it back together and see if it works now. Oh, NO. Where did that screw go? I kind of push things back together and decided to put everything back in the watch and carefully close the lid. Since it wasn't working anyway, maybe Dad won't notice it and I carefully laid it back in the drawer. Several years later, my father "handed down" the very same watch to me. If he had ever opened it, he never said anything to me. Soon as I had a chance to privately open and examine the watch, I found it much in the same state I had left it. At that time I knew a fellow where I worked that worked on clocks and watches at home. I took it to him and after a few chuckles and some good advice, he agreed to take a look at the watch and fix it if he could. The good advice was for me to stick to my day job and leave the watches to the experts. I followed his advice, but clocks are another story.

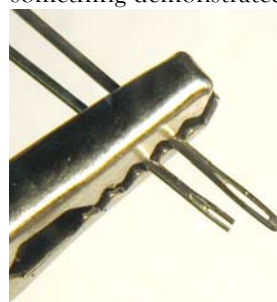
So in an effort to keep things fair and balanced I was seeking some input on tips for the watch enthusiast. Frank Goad was kind enough to offer me some good tips. First he mentioned that he had been quite successful using alcohol as a rinse when cleaning watches. I have after rinsing with water used alcohol as a second rinse to get the water out since it will mix with the water. Going straight for the alcohol sounds like a good move to me. I have found that many techniques used on watches are valid applications for working on watches as well as the reverse.

A second tip from Frank was the use of super glue to attach the pallet jewels to the pallet. He finds this to work well and if you need to adjust the jewels, you can heat the pallet with a small soldering iron just enough to soften the super glue much the same way you would heat shellac to make an adjustment. The super glue is easy to apply and has been around long enough to establish its holding power. Keep in mind that the super glue comes in the very liquid (runny) form that can go into small cracks and openings as well as the type with filler in it to fill gaps. If the pallet jewels are a loose fit, then the thicker glue might be the more appropriate type. I know this technique would have worked well in some of the clock pallet jewels I have replaced. Thank you Frank.

Some time ago a friend had a problem with clock springs

breaking. Aside from the fact that he had cleaned the clocks by dipping them in a bucket of kerosene, it did not seem that he had done anything (or admitted to it) that should have been the obvious cause. I did a little bit of research and found the topic of spring breakage addressed by William H. Samelius (1878-1961) in his book, "Watch and Clock Information Please!", ©1981 by Orville R. Hagans, American Watchmakers Institute Press. William was a man of much experience and knowledge. He was the Director of the Elgin Watch College. In response to a question about mainspring breakage he noted some practices to avoid or reduce the occurrence of the problem. 1) Do not handle the mainspring with your fingers, use tweezers. 2) Clean the spring in rinsing solution and dry it well and oil using an oil saturated tissue paper and following the natural curvature of the spring. 3) Never straighten the spring. 4) Use a proper mainspring winder to insert the spring into the barrel. 5) Be sure the hook on the winding arbor does not extend beyond the thickness of the mainspring as it may cause fracturing and premature breakage of the spring at the first turn point. 6) and last exercise the spring by winding part way and letting the spring down a couple of times before winding it fully. These precaution steps should help to reduce mainspring breakage.

In working with clock hairsprings I have found that some of them have been abused by well meaning caretakers or inexperienced repairers. This applies to watches as well clocks, something demonstrated by a 12 year old boy many years ago.



Sometimes the new and ready replacements are not in keeping with older clock designs and I assume the same is true for watches. If you have ever tried to straighten and reshape a hairspring back to its original configuration, you may appreciate this next tip which I mentioned in

passing in an earlier Tech Tip. Using a needle with an eye of the appropriate size for the hairspring you are working on, use a file or grinder to remove the top portion of the needle down through the upper end of the needle eye. This will leave you a needle with a two pronged end that can be slipped down over the hairspring. Using two of these you can easily bend the hairspring to straighten or add additional curvature to the spring. The prongs can be used to twist the hairspring to align the spring spirals into the same plane. The photo shows the tool and a close up of the two prongs. A piece of bamboo, normally used for a sprit in making shish kebabs, works well as a handle.

Al Bush - 201001

