



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

June / July – No.2009-04

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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.

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of summer as we take a break from our regular meeting schedule. Next up will be our annual **Chapter 141 picnic**, which **Bob and Patsy Rothen** have graciously agreed to host again this year at their home in Hagerstown, MD. The date is **Sunday, July 19th** from 11-2 (or whenever folks are ready to leave). There is plenty of room for both the picnic and setting up to sell mart items, so please bring your horological treasures to sell (and for everyone else - be ready to buy!). The picnic is free for all members in good standing (those who have paid-up dues as of June 1) and their immediate family (spouse and children under age 17 living at home). You may bring as many guests as you wish - the cost is \$15 each. Our biggest concern is making sure we get an accurate count of participants, both to ensure we have enough food, and to keep from wasting food. This picnic is always popular and a lot of fun, but it is also pretty expensive to put on, so I ask you to make your reservations with Neil by the July 6th deadline, and if you make a reservation, to show up. If you fail to make a reservation, and then show up, you are still welcome, but we will charge you \$10/person. Similarly, if you make a reservation and then don't show up, we will also charge you \$10/person. Please recognize that this is necessary to enable Bob and Patsy to properly plan the picnic, so please help them make this an enjoyable event for

you and your fellow chapter friends. See elsewhere in the newsletter for additional details.

We had a great meeting in **May**, with a very interesting presentation on celluloid clocks by **Joe Abrams**. If you were not entertained and did not learn something at the same time, then you must have been asleep. When we resume meeting in the fall, we have two accomplished speakers to look forward to: noted clock repair author **Steve Conover** joins us in September, and a noted author on watches, **Howard Lasser** will be our November speaker, so we have much to look forward to. Please ask your friends with an interest in clocks or watches to join us as a guest to see what we are about. This is the best way to recruit new members, and our upcoming programs will be a great opportunity to attract new members.

We have recently welcomed another **three new members**, who further enrich our club. Please join me in welcoming aboard **Michael Greenwald** of Silver Spring, MD; **Melvyn Komspan** from Laytonsville, MD; and **Edward Smith** of Westminster, MD. Please introduce yourself to them at our next meeting, if you have not already done so, and share your experiences.

(continued)

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 19, 2009 at The Rothen's Home

President's Message Continued.

When you come to the picnic next month, please bring along an **old necktie** for Patsy Rothen, who is using them to make a quilt; it's a cheap donation to thank the Rothens for their hospitality, and you'll be recycling stuff that not even Goodwill wants. 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. Please also remember other government officials, who are likewise operating in dangerous places,

Chapter 141 Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2009

The 13 May 2009 meeting of Free State Chapter 141 was held at Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, Md. A Mart was held starting at 5:30 pm and the meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Lou Orsini, President. New business included introduction of Michael Greenwald, whose interest is in high end watches. The summer picnic will be held at the Rothens on Sunday, 19 July, starting with a mart at 11:00 am. Lunch will be served at noon. Reservations must be made no later than 6 July by contacting Neil Amrine. Detailed information will be distributed by separate flyer. Neil Amrine gave the current treasurer's report disclosing a balance of \$2,784.61 is in our treasury. Lou Orsini announced we received a check for \$138.10 which was our share from the recent Woodsboro meeting. Al Bush questioned if anyone was having trouble receiving their Newsletter and all seemed satisfied.

which was brought home by the recent death of one of our State Department officers from an IED in Iraq. We are so very fortunate to have some many brave men and women serving in our armed forces and diplomatic corps, who find themselves continuously in harm's way to protect our interests and way of life. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home, and take the time to say thank you whenever you can.

Lou Orsini, president

Bob Rothen introduced our Guest Speaker, Joe Abrams from Pennsylvania. Mr. Abrams is a collector with vast clock experience whose slide presentation was titled "Celluloid is Beautiful." Handouts were provided supplying information such as What is Celluloid?, The History of Celluloid, Trade Names for Celluloid, Uses for Celluloid, and also included the Care and Cautions for Celluloid. The presentation was exceptionally interesting and very entertaining.



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!

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 picnic in July. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the picnic reservations. We need to know the head count for the meal so food requirements can be fulfilled. The picnic is free to members, spouses and children under 17 living at home. (Extra charge for no reservations and no shows). See the picnic page.

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.

NAWCC FREE STATE CHAPTER 141 ANNUAL PICNIC **SUNDAY JULY 19, 2009**

PLACE: BOB & PAT ROTHEN'S HOME
20310 AYOUB LANE, HAGERSTOWN,
MARYLAND 21742

TIME: 11:00 AM -- 2:00 PM
FOOD SERVED @ 12:00 NOON

FOOD: We will have the same great picnic fare as in the past.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-70 East or West (depending on which direction you are coming from) to **Exit 32B**. Merge onto Dual Highway toward Hagerstown. At the first light {N. Edgewood Drive (East)} make a right and go 0.44 miles. Turn right onto Mt. Aetna. Go 1.1 miles and turn left onto Ayoub Lane, entering Black Rock Estates between the two flag poles. **20310 is the first house on your left.**

MEETING RESERVATIONS: You may use the Picnic Reservation form below to mail in your reservations for the Free State Chapter 141 picnic. You may also make reservations via e-mail to neil54@aol.com and providing Neil Amrine with the information requested on the picnic reservation form or by Calling Neil at **301-229-2587** and informing Neil directly.

To insure we get the right amount of food (not too little or too much), reservations are required. Please either return the enclosed form or you may call/email Neil Amrine to make reservations as soon as possible, but no later than July 6. If you fail to make reservations, you are still welcome but will be charged \$10; the same charge will apply for anyone who fails to show up after making reservation.

Cancellation Policy: Bob has a large garage that should accommodate the group in case of inclement weather. Thus no cancellation or alternate date is planned.

This event is free to Chapter 141 members and your immediate family (spouse and children under 17 living at home). You may bring additional guests at \$15 each. No need to bring anything but you and your family. However, everyone should bring seating for you and your guests. We encourage you to bring along all those horological treasures you've been saving for just this occasion. There will be Mart spaces set up in the driveway & garage for your convenience. Some lawn parking will be available for those who find it more practical or convenient to sell from their car. The pool and changing room will be available for those who might like to take a dip to cool off. Please be advised that if you bring children you must supervise and lifeguard them while in the pool area.

Free State Chapter 141 Picnic Reservation Form

Name _____

Guest Names _____

Your Reservation _____ x FREE _____ x \$0

Number of Mart Tables _____ (Mart Tables are Free)

Number Guests Coming _____ x \$15.00 =

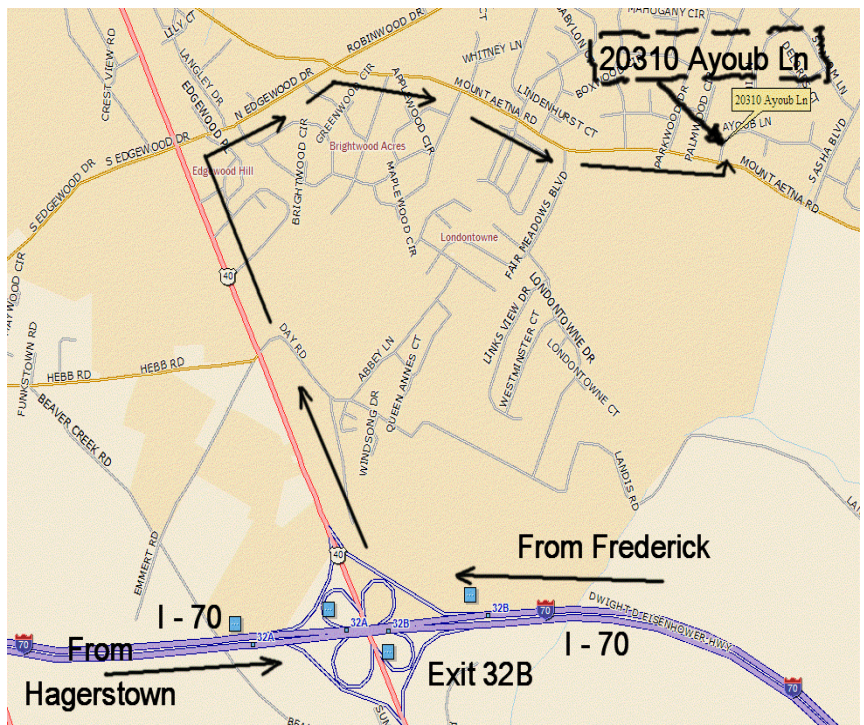
\$ _____

Total = \$ _____

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.

Any questions? Contact Bob Rothen at 240-420-6484 or email timefxr@aol.com.



Tic Toc Tech Tips

Cherub clocks and "fit ups"

I would like to talk about something I have had trouble coming to grips with. I enjoy seeing the skill, ingenuity and craftsmanship in the clock and watch movements that I collect.

Considering the tools they had to work with, it is amazing what a great job these early clock and watchsmiths have done. In many cases they have made not only the movements but the tools to make them as well. For a long time after I started collecting clocks, I would turn up my nose at the thought of quartz clocks, even knowing how they worked and their accuracy. I relented somewhat when it came to digital readout electronic wrist watches. As time progressed, I mellowed and began to realize that electric, electronic, quartz and digital timepieces are part of our horological history the same as wooden geared movements of the 18th and 19th century. What does this have to do with cherub clocks? Yes I am guilty of placing quartz "fit ups" in cherub clock cases.

I am very much a proponent of maintaining the historical integrity of the clocks I work on. I have on occasions made parts (which could have been purchased new) to keep them in character with the rest of the movement. In some cases I have scrounged used parts and reconditioned them rather than buy new ones. As for cherub clocks, some of the ones I have worked on appear not to have original movements when I received them. Thus removing those movements does not destroy its original history. I have converted and given away a number of cherub clocks to some of my cousins and friends who are not clock collectors but enjoy a timepiece with an antique flavor to enhance their décor and serve to display the time of day. I know for a fact if they had to wind the clock daily, it would not happen and soon the clock would take a back seat, probably in their basement. With the quartz fit up, they have remarked to me on more than one occasion how much they enjoy the clock and how neat it looks on their stand or dresser and they still continue to use it. If I know the recipient of the gift has an appreciation for timepieces I will process the mechanical movement and insure it is working properly, cleaned, and oiled and packaged for storage. I will give them the movement along with the cherub clock with the quartz fit up. Thus if at some time they want to restore it to its original state, they will have the movement to place back into the case. If the gift is to a fellow clock collector, then I go the full route, COA (clean, oil, adjust) and give him the clock with the original movement in it.

The procedure I use is to first locate a cherub clock or case that seems to match the individual that will receive it. If it has no movement or a non original movement, the decision is easy. I stash the movement in my junk box. Yes I have a junk box. I actually received it from a friend for whom I had restored some clocks. He in turn received it from his clock collector fa-

ther whose neighbor was a clocksmith. When the clocksmith passed away; his wife gave his junk box to my friend's father. It



came as a big boost to my source of used clock parts. It also reinforced my conclusion that many of these small clocks with cherub type movements probably are not original. The junk box was an old footlocker about half full of parts, cases and backs including a cardboard box full of old movements, many restorable, but some missing parts that had been scavenged. Most of these movements were removed and replaced with mechanical fit ups as a fast and inexpensive way to repair the clocks. If you don't have this type junk box resource, you can obtain either mechanical or quartz fit up from such places as Merritt's Antiques or Timesavers. The quartz units I like are German made (Merritt's # P-812 to 815) which are in the \$20 range. The diameter is important and the ones listed have a movement of 2 1/4". This may not match some cherubs but they have other sizes and types to pick from. Of course if you want to use a new mechanical movement, they have fit ups for that as well.

Having secured a movement to use in the clock, I turn my attention to cleaning and restoring the case. Many of the cases are white metal and some may exhibit case deterioration. In some cases I have used solder to build up the case in weak



areas and around where the clock movement fits. On occasions I have had to use a Dremel tool to smooth the area around where the bezel will fit. Once I am satisfied with the case structure I need to restore the surface coloration. Many of these clocks have a bronze or gold toned finish. I have seen many of them painted with gold/brass paint. I prefer to use a medium of paste that can be rubbed on and polished or buffed off. Rub & Buff is a commercial brand that

works well for me. It comes in various gold, brass, copper, black and other colors. I mix and match to get the final results I am looking for. With this technique, I can control the thickness of the coat and do not have runs and streaks. Sometimes white metal is plated with a thin layer of copper and then with brass or bronze. I somewhat simulate this by first using copper Rub & Buff and then over coating with gold or brass color. Once I have



finished and the finish has had time to "dry" or harden, I will apply a coat of orange shellac which gives me a nice finish and some protection to the case finish.

One last item; Since the person receiving the clock was not interested in the mechanical movement, I have shown the removed and reconditioned movement installed in another case that was missing the movement.

Al Bush 200904