



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

## Chapter 141 Officers

**President**  
Lou Orsini

**Vice President**  
Bob Rothen

**Treasurer**  
Neil Amrine

**Secretary**  
Pasty Rothen

**Newsletter Coordinator**  
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**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](mailto: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](mailto:agbush172@verizon.net) or (410) 531-5307.

April / May – No.2010-03

## President's Message

Thank goodness spring is finally here! The weather is beautiful; the cherry blossoms are in full bloom; college basketball has a new champion; the pro basketball and hockey playoffs are underway; baseball begins again with renewed hope for the Nats and Orioles; and schools are into their final semester. You may notice that the President's Message is a little shorter than usual - not because I have nothing to say, but we need to save space to keep the Newsletter to four pages due to postage considerations. If you are getting this Newsletter by snail mail and have e-mail capability, **please consider switching to electronic delivery.** It gets you the information faster; saves the Chapter money; and does a little more for the environment. Contact **Al Bush** to make the switch.

Our last meeting was well attended with a few new faces and lots of old ones (not that I'm calling anyone old!). Please join me in welcoming aboard **John Blair** of Waynesboro, PA and **Ern Grover** of Harrisonburg, VA. Both should be official members of Chapter 141 by the time you read this. We were fortunate to have pinch-hitter extraordinary **Frank Goad** step-in for **Bob Rothen** with an exceptional presentation on railroad wristwatches. We are most fortunate to have so many talented folks in the chapter, who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with us - thanks Frank!

Our next meeting is May 12th, and **Bob Rothen** is back to present a truly unique program. Bob is in the process of restoring an unusual **Beach & Hubbell clock**, which is requiring him to reverse engineer a replacement balance wheel. Since Mr. Hubbell is considered to be the inventor of the balance wheel, the project has been both challenging and rewarding for Bob, and he will share his experiences with us. I think I'm safe in saying that this will be a presentation you have never heard before.

I am pleased to advise you that the Board of Directors on March 10, 2010 unanimously approved a **new Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.** These new documents contain no major changes from the previous document that affect the way we conduct business, but we needed to make certain changes to comply with IRS regulations. I hope to get these posted on our website, and am happy to e-mail/snail mail the new document to any member desiring a copy. In addition, we were required to submit a revenue expense form to the IRS (via NAWCC Headquarters) for 2007-2010 to show that we are operating as a non-profit entity. I can also send that form to any member who would like it.

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other dangerous places throughout the world. Their in-

*Our next meeting will be ..... Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at The Cozy Inn*

## President's Message Continued.

credible sacrifices under harsh and extremely challenging conditions deserve our strongest support. They both represent us as a nation, and defend our most cherished rights and freedoms. 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*

### Updated Chapter #141 Constitution & Bylaws!

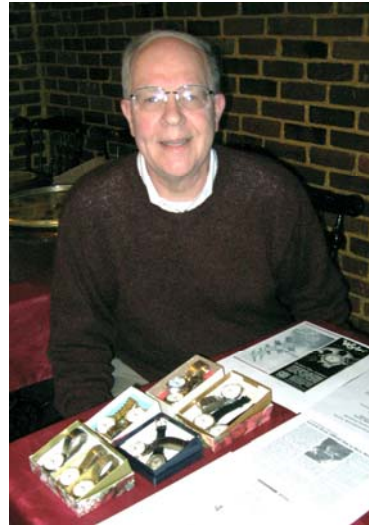
Our updated chapter **Constitution & Bylaws** are now available online at our Chapter 141 website on the NAWCC **Community Center**.

The link to the .PDF document can be found on the left hand menu of the “**ABOUT**” page.

## Chapter 141 Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2010

The Chapter 141 met at the Cozy Inn in Thurmont, MD on March 10, 2010 at 5:30 pm. 31 people attended. President Lou Orsini presided. Attention was directed to the upcoming National Convention in York, PA and a joint chapter meeting in Woodsboro, MD. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Darcy Bertlemann. The presentation of prizes to the 3 Winners of the “Show and Tell” presentations of the previous meeting were made by President Orsini, who had missed that meeting. The winners were Doug Schlotterbeck, Neil Amrine, and Darcy Bertlemann. There was 1 visitor, John Blair of Waynesboro, PA, who we hope will become a chapter member.

Bob and Patsy Rothen, Vice President and Secretary, respectively, were absent due to a death in the family. The chapter noted their loss and expressed its sympathy for them at this time.



Frank Goad provided the meeting program by making an excellent presentation on Railroad Wrist Watches, a post 1960 evolution of the railroad watch story.

*George Hudson,  
Temp. Scribe (3/11/10)*

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!

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

Contact me at [Neil54@aol.com](mailto: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 May. 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](mailto: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 12, 2010 at the Cozy Inn**

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MAY 12, 2010

The subject of the program for our next meeting will be the program originally planned for the March meeting. It is a power point presentation by Bob Rothen on the restoration (resurrection) of a Beach & Hubbell time and strike clock movement. Beach and Hubble were partners in a clock manufacturing business located in Forestville, Connecticut prior to the civil war. Some folks call that war "the war of northern aggression". Don Mozart, Laporte Hubbell, and Levi Beach are the patentees on a clock and watch escapement dated December 8, 1863. This patent became the impetus for replacing pendulums with balance wheels in the brass movements of the day. Beach & Hubbell manufactured these escapements not only for their clocks, but made them for other clock manufacturers as well. Hubbell went on to manufacture a very popular clock he called the "Marine Clock" which utilized the balance escapement and other refinements he patented on November 28, 1865. Hubbell was a prolific inventor and apparently a very astute business person as he enjoyed a long career in the clock industry. We will look forward to seeing you there.

**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](mailto: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, WUSA 9, WBAL 11, WJZ 13, x 45, & WETA 26.)

**Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form**

Reservation for Free State 141 Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

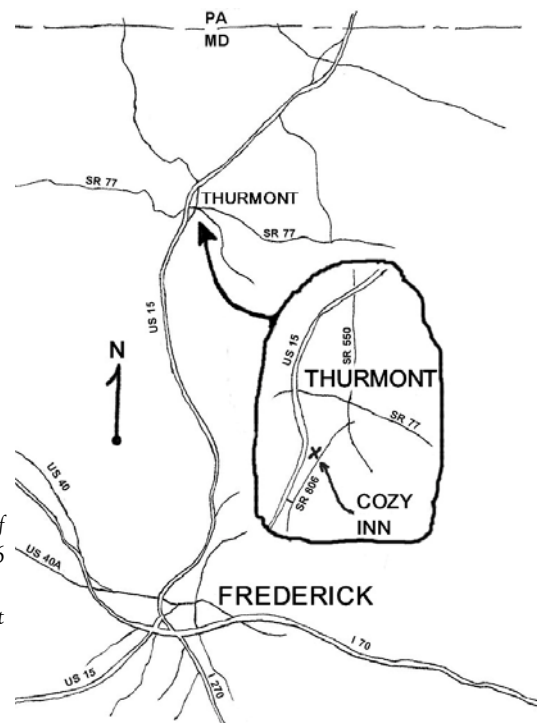
Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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

### Keeping Records

Recently at our meeting mart, one of our members offered old copies of the Bulletin “free for the taking”. I took them home to browse through. The first one I looked at, Bulletin, June 1978, Whole Number 194, Vol. XX, No. 3, had an article in “The Answer Box”, page 279 on the subject of describing watches and clocks for the records. I am in the process of cataloging my own clocks. What if I had a fire or theft? How would I know what my loss would be? A quick head count revealed that I had many more, including wrist watches and new quartz clocks, old and new, large and small, than I had any idea of. Purchased over the years, some of them had been forgotten. To catalog all of these in a meaningful way is no small task.

This article “Points to Consider When Describing Clocks and Watches” was just what the doctor ordered. It highlighted movement, escapement, case, dial, hands, and strike. Clock movement listed type and layout, material of construction and power source. Watch movement listed size and jewellery, plate structure and method of winding. The escapement for clocks listed type, pendulum characteristics and provision for regulation while for watches it listed type, hairspring characteristics, and balance

Spring 8 day, Weight 1 day, Weight 8 day, ½ day wax. (Yes I have a candle powered clock). For the movement, I used 2 or 3 word descriptions including Analog electric, Digital electric, Candle weight, Lever, Lever jeweled, Pendulum, Pendulette, Spring pendulum, Radio controlled quartz, etc. Under features I listed Time, Time alarm, Time bell, Time cuckoo gong, Time strike music animation, Time talking alarm, etc. Under type I designated Anniversary, Banjo, Carriage, Carriage style, Table, Shelf, Wall, Wall novelty animated, Table novelty bank, Kitchen calendar, pocket watch, wrist watch, etc. (Right now I am cataloging clocks. When I get to watches I can expand my standard descriptions for the watches too.)

Next I included a column describing the clock condition which I keep limited to 2 words as near as possible, such as; It runs, New, Not running, It runs work needed, Ticks & stops, cannot check, etc. Here I am working on a two letter code to simplify it further. The columns for Power, Movement, Feature, Type and Condition are intended to be limited “standard” words to use minimal column space and still convey the information. More about that later, but some of the columns such as Beat, current location (a coded designation), size, and Work Order use numbers or alphabetic notation. For cross reference I use a number system that refers to a table listing the clock numbers of iden-

CAT #	PRICE	PAID	PUR DATE	MANUFACTURER	ORIGIN	POWER	MOVEMENT	CONDITON	FEATURE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	BEAT	WO#	Cross Ref.	Loc	SIZE (W,H,D)	
CLK0005	\$65.00	\$68.25	12/23/1996	WILLIAM C. GILBERT CO	WINSTED, CT	SPRING, 8 DAY	LEVER	IT RUNS	RF	TIME	BANJO	5 3/8 Gilbert Banjo, wood case, green paint Pur Unknown	Not noted	WO0005		BR2	7 1/2 x 23 x 3 1/2
CLK0008	\$75.00	\$79.50	8/20/1996	YALE CLOCK CO	NEW HAVEN, CT	SPRING, 8 DAY	PENDULUM	IT RUNS	RF	TIME	SHELF, MINATURE	Clock was actually used in pairs on a sea-saw for timing Chess games, wood case w/gesso trim. Had to make/replace one pinion gear. Pat. Jan 1881. On the back in script "Ernestine 1882". Pur: Merritt's Antiques, Douglassville, PA.	15808 bph	WO0008		C17 86	
CLK0009	\$325.00	\$210.00	6/6/1997	L. MATI ET CI	FRANCE	SPRING, 14 DAY	PENDULUM	IT RUNS	RF	TIME, STRIKE	MANTLE, MARBLE	Black marble case, visible escapement. Medaille De Gronze. Pur: San Jose, CA.	10080 bph	WO0009		BR4 SM	18 x 9 1/2 x 6 1/2

wheel structure. The case for clocks lists size and type, primary and secondary materials and style features. For watch cases it lists material, size and type, and identifying marks. The dial is another important feature and for clocks it lists material and finish, size, shape and layout and type of numerals. On the watch it considers the material and finish, type of numerals and secondary bits on its dial. Then the hands for both clocks and watches list the material, decorative characteristics and method of setting. The last item in the list is strike; for the clock, striking patterns, bell or gong and alarm and for the watch, the type of repetition, automation and the alarm. It suggests “the list is intended to stimulate logical and comprehensive descriptions of horologiana.” In my cataloging efforts, I had addressed most of these points and had included some not mentioned. I started with a hand written tally sheet with column headings for each category.

I had needed something to uniquely identify each clock. So I assigned numbers to each clock, starting with CLK0001. Things I included were the price asked, price paid (including replacement parts and tax), date purchased, manufacturer and geographical origin. Under power I included 2 or 3 word descriptions such as AC, Battery, Battery Electric Wind, Spring 1 day,

tical (or similar) clocks. Once I had the data organized, I realized I could continue by hand but the use of a computer and a spread sheet would be more practical. Complex software programs are available that store more information in less space, but a simple spread sheet such as Microsoft’s Excel works well. I chose it and formed a spread sheet, a portion of which is shown in the example above.

One thing computers like is consistency. This is true if you want to search on something like all the clocks that run. You must be consistent such as “It Runs” for those that do and not use “It works” or “Runs” or “works” for interchangeably. Sorting on specific designations is very helpful. Sorting and searching requires me to select specific phrases and stick to them, thus I adopted “standard” words. I can sort for all weight driven clocks or spring driven, etc. The Description is a catch all and is not useful for sorting but allows for pertinent comments. You can still search for a word in the Description and zero in on descriptions containing that word. This catalog can be done using a relatively simple spread sheet. I currently have 400 clocks cataloged and it has been quite useful.

Al Bush - 201003