



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.

August / September – No.2010-05

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying summer vacation (for those of us who actually have a summer vacation!) and spending extra time with your families. I am happy to say that everyone who came to our annual picnic had a really great time. As in the past, Bob and Patsy Rothen put on a wonderful event complete with a nice sized mart; plenty of good food (good variety too; most of which was homemade!); tables and chairs with tents for shade; and an informal jazz ensemble. The great music was supplied by the "three Rothen Girls", Bobbie Rothen, Kristy Pottol and Anita Thomas plus Candice Mowbray and Chapter 141 member Tom Litzenberger. Patsy says she really enjoyed making the food (except the chicken), and it was good to see people come back for seconds (some even thirds)! After we ate, Bob took us on a tour of their music room (built above the garage), and of course a visit to his extensive antique tool collection and machine/repair shop. If there's a tool that Bob doesn't have, it probably hasn't been invented yet!

As the summer moves into its latter phases (and it's been a really hot one so far), and we get closer to fall, we also get closer to our next meeting on September 8th. I will have a surprise for two members reading this letter closely; all you have to do is be the first two members to ask me for the surprise at the meeting. But you can't ask me until after I've arrived in the meeting room (no drive-by requests in the parking lot!). Bob Rothen has another great program lined up for us, and one that's a bit different. Ms. Sherry Kemp, a noted local artist, will present a program on restoring clocks and other antiques to their original luster. This program should not be

missed! But please don't be shy about helping Bob continue to come up with great programs – he needs your help. This is where you say: "wow – I didn't realize you were looking for someone to make a presentation – I have information about clocks or watches that I would love to share with the rest of the Chapter. How do I go about volunteering?" Well, I'm glad you asked. It's really easy. Just give Bob a call or send him an e-mail describing your program idea, and he will help you get everything in place. Operators are standing by for your call!

Let me take this opportunity to make another pitch for folks to please consider switching from snail mail to electronic delivery of this Newsletter. 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.

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other dangerous places throughout the world. Many (perhaps most) of our service members are on their second, third, fourth or even fifth tour of duty in a combat zone – an extreme challenge both physically and mentally. Further, the mental part of that challenge is pretty intense for family members as well. Seek opportunities to say thanks, and to lend military families of deployed members a hand. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home.

Lou Orsini, president

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at The Cozy Inn



Minutes of Chapter 141 for the 27 June 2010 Picnic (Meeting)

There was no meeting or meeting minutes for July. Instead, we held our annual Chapter 141 picnic, June 27, 2010. It is appropriate however to take this opportunity to thank our gracious hosts for the picnic, Bob and Patsy Rothen. It was a wonderful day, good food and good friends not to mention the treat of band music during and after lunch. In fact it was more than a lunch. I had to back off to only a snack for the evening meal. It was topped off with desert to make you lose your diet. The day was favored with sunlight and warmth but the garage, with its cooling fan, served well as a shady dining area. Again this year

we thank their daughter and friends, including some of our own members, for providing the music. It always makes the occasion special. We also enjoyed a tour through Bob's fantastic shop, well stocked with tools. Guys, Patsy is still making quilts and can always use your old ties when you discard them. They make beautiful patchwork quilts. Just bring them to a future meeting. We have included in this issue of the newsletter a page of photos recorded at the picnic.

Al Bush for 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 _____

Your Primary Area of Interest _____

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 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 September. 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 September 8, 2010 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR September 8, 2010



The program for the September meeting will be provided by Sherry Kemp, noted local area artist. Sherry has been restoring antiques including clocks for many years and is proficient in all aspects of restorative and original art. Sherry does reverse painting on glass, bronze stenciling, matching or producing carved paw feet, eagles and fruit splats. Ms. Kemp also does remarkable work restoring wood and metal clock faces.

Clocks were a key design element in the home furnishings of our ancestors. Come out and enjoy an evening devoted to the art of returning them to their former gleaming luster. You are encouraged to bring items in need of restoration to be evaluated. 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 the 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.

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 141 Meeting on _____

Name _____

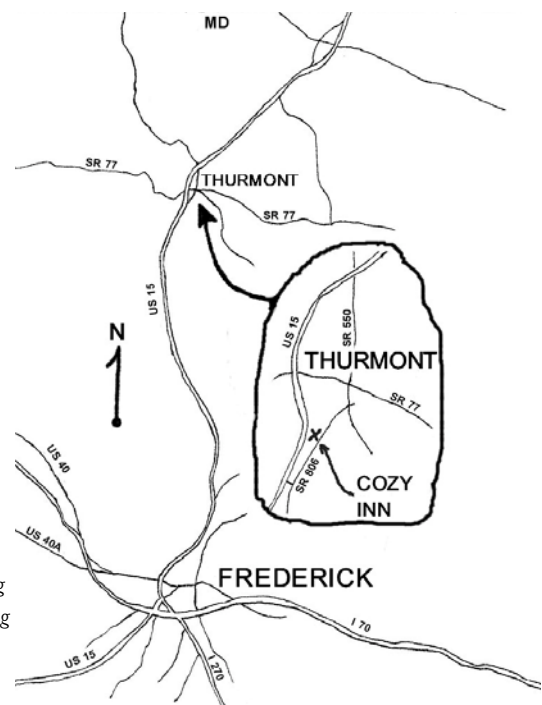
Guest Names _____

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

Clock Spring Let Down Tool

In a recent issue of the NAWCC Bulletin (Vol. 51/4, No. 381, August 2009) the serial article "Practical Watch Collecting, A Manual for the Beginner - Part 7" by Richard Watkins addressed the subject of tools for watches. In this very interesting article he noted that in the early days all these watch parts were handmade and parts were not interchangeable and likewise the watchsmith often had to fashion his own tools to fit the watch he was working on. Thus many craftsmen wound up with a very wide assortment and a very large collection of watch tools. This is also quite true for the clocksmith as well. Today I would like to address an essential tool for working with clocks. If you are going to work on, i.e. take down a watch or clock movement, the first thing you will want to do is remove the drive power. If it is powered by weights you simply secure the cables or chains and remove the weights. If it is spring driven, you must let the spring down. This assumes the spring is intact and not broken. If it is broken, it usually requires special attention and frequently there will be other broken parts as well. This also excludes those powerful spring that exceed your hand power capability. There are inexpensive let down tools you can purchase for this purpose, but if you don't have one, a satisfactory one can be fashioned out of relative simple and common items.

The recipe is as follows: one old broom handle, one old



lamp fixture with a length of 1/8" brass or steel pipe or a length of 1/8" lamp cord, a standard (size 000 through 6) winding key of the size you need (hopefully included with the clock) and a pin or nail. To put this all together, do the following:

A) Cut a handle to length (about 4") from a piece of the broom handle and drill a hole (about 2" deep) along its axis of a diameter to provide a snug fit for the piece of pipe you will use.

B) Cut a piece of the pipe about 3" long and saw a slot in one end to allow the flat part (key handle) of the winding key to pass through as you slide the pipe over the key for about 1". Depending on the thickness of the key handle you might have to make multiple saw passes for the slot or do some filing.

C) Insert the pipe into the handle hole for about 1 3/4" leaving the slot clear to accept the key handle. The fit should be tight but not excessive to split the wood. Some form of metal-wood glue similar to Gorilla glue can be used for added security.

D) You do not want the pipe spinning in the handle, so we now drill a small hole through the handle about 3/4" from the pipe end of the handle going through the center of



the handle and the inserted pipe. The hole should be a tight fit for the nail going through and terminated on the opposite side. A small finishing nail works well. While the tight fit and glue should hold the pipe from spinning the nail provides added assurance. You should make sure the nail is secure and flush with the handle so as

to not snag your hand as it rotates when you let the spring down.

To put the final touch on the tool you might want to run over the handle with sandpaper to eliminate any splinters and perhaps shellac or paint it to give a more professional craftsman appearance.

As you use the tool there will be significant torque exerted on it when the spring click stop is lifted to release the spring. Your grip on the handle will be used to control how rapidly the spring will be released. The handle will be allowed to rotate in your hand depending on the tightness of your grip. This is why we don't want any splinters or sharp protrusions on the handle. The pin through the handle and pin will prevent unwanted rotation of the pipe inside the handle so maintain control of let down. As you relax your hand grip be sure your fingers are clear of the protruding wings of the winding key itself as it spins.



By accumulating a series of different keys covering the key sizes you need it will make the tool much more versatile. By the same token there may be some of the winding keys often seen on alarm clocks that will



work with this tool. If not the broom handle is long and pipe is available at the local hardware or lamp store to make additional models with larger or smaller pipe or different slot sizes to work with different size keys. The standard keys in sizes above #6 usually have larger diameters to accommodate the larger square winding shanks.

For these you will need a slightly larger inside diameter pipe for the handle. In fact I have made special bits for the commercial let down tool I have, but the one I have described above works well. One noteworthy point, don't ask me why but the 1/8" pipe measures 17/64" inside diameter. The table shows

PIPE SIZES

NOMINAL SIZE	INSIDE DIA.	OUTSIDE DIA.
1/8"	17/64"	13/32"
1/4"	23/64"	35/64"
3/8"	1/2"	43/64"
1/2"	5/8"	27/32"

some small pipe sizes for your convenience. Also when sawing the



slot in the pipe, you may need a wider slot. One way of obtaining that which I have used in the past is to place two hacksaw blades side by side on the hacksaw if the anchor pins on the saw are long enough to hold them. Another method is to use a Dremel tool with a reinforced cutter blade in the tool.

With this technique you can enlarge the slot to take keys with thicker key handles. The depth of the slot may need to be deeper for some types of key handles.

Al Bush 2010-05