



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.

February / March – No.2010-02

President's Message

Wow, what a winter (so far) and it's only February. The Blizzard of 2010 (aka *snow-mageddon* and *snowpocalypse* among other names) has been one of the worst in DC history, and there's more on the way! One advantage to being snowed in is that I now have time (and no more excuses to dally) to write the President's Message for this Newsletter. That doesn't mean the quality of my writing will be any better, but it should be on time for a change, which will make Al Bush happy. It also cues me 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. I apologize to all for missing the last meeting, but a real life work emergency grabbed my complete attention that evening and for several more thereafter. I am even sorer after hearing what an outstanding meeting we had with ten exceptional presentations for "Show & Tell". My thanks to all the presenters; the quality was so high that it was impossible to determine three winners. Nonetheless, I owe three prizes, and I will present them at the next meeting. You will have to wait to see how I determine the winners - be there to see!

Our next meeting is March 10th, and Bob Rothen will present a program, which will be truly unique. 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.

The next event on the calendar after our March meeting is the Annual Spring Joint Meeting of Chapters 11, 12 and 141 in Woodsboro, MD on Saturday, April 17 from 8AM until 2PM. As in the past, the meeting and mart is being held at the Woodsboro VFD Community Hall on Coppermine Road. Meeting and Mart registration is \$8.00 (\$10 at the door) and a Mart Table costs \$15. There are 60 mart tables available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The featured speaker this year is Gordon Converse, who will talk about his 20 years experience as an on-air clock appraiser for the PBS Antiques Roadshow. I encourage all members to attend, and if you have stuff to sell, this is a great opportunity with good exposure across three chapters (and others from nearby chapters including some large ones). It is important to support this event if you want to continue to have such a great opportunity each year. Not only does it bring all three chapters several hundred dollars each year, but it is the perfect time to visit with other NAWCC members in the region who you may not normally see, and to buy and sell clocks and watches along with associated parts and tools. It's not like a Chapter 1 meeting, but it is a wonderful chance to socialize, learn things, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members. Any questions can be directed to Bill Miller at 410-592-7013.

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

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at The Cozy Inn

President's Message Continued.

wars have been less in the news recently, this is both good and bad. It is good in that we are suffering fewer casualties and seeing a more stable situation developing, albeit very slowly and painfully. It is bad because we tend to forget our service members when they are not in the news; please don't ever let that happen. You will also find thousands of our young men and women providing security and basic assistance of every type while helping to rebuild Haiti following that devastating earthquake

and several dangerous aftershocks. The challenges our service members face in these varied situations are incredibly difficult, and yet are carried out in an exceptional manner. 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 – January 13, 2010

The first Free State 141 meeting of the New Year was held 13 January 2010 in Thurmont, MD at the Cozy Inn with over 30 members braving the cold weather to attend. The Mart was started at 5:30 pm. Due to the Haiti situation, Lou Orsini was unable to attend so Bob Rothen, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Neil Armine, Treasurer, reported he had completed all the necessary tax documents in concert with NAWCC headquarters to satisfy the IRS that the Chapter qualified for non-profit status. Doug Schlotterbeck gave the members a reference for the work of local artist/restorer Sherrie Kemp; if you have a need for reverse glass painting or gilding/painting of clock cases, give her a call.

The program for the night was "Show-and-Tell" which, of course, brings out the best of everyone trying to outdo each other with the "best" of show. Neil Armine brought a mainspring removed from a Wittnauer watch that had an original repair where the spring had broken and had been riveted(!) back together. Bob Lowry brought a cute rim wind solid brass boat clock, the rim made like a spoked helm wheel. Schlotterbeck showed us pictures of a Chauncey Boardman clock he purchased at our last meeting. Mel Kornspan had a Nitelite clock by F. W. Jansen Co. of Chicago, Illinois, 1910. Frank Goad showed us an Illinois Watch Co. 21 jewel, 60 hour, Bunn Special railroad watch. He also had a relatively rare 17 jewel wrist watch from around 1932.

Tom Mostyn delighted us with 2 examples of WW II Sector clocks which are often listed as "The Clocks that Saved England." He also had a commemorative 50 year Bronze Statue of RAF pilots. Darcy Bertelman had 4 clocks with the words "war alarm" across the dial, also manufactured during WWII. Mac McLean brought a bag full of old ties, which were donated to Pat Rothen to make a quilt.

Al Bush brought many small clock repairing tools that he makes from discarded items such as hardened cut or masonry nails, old files, etc. Bob Rothen brought a small microscope which was used by watchmaker/jeweler as a counter tool to allow customers the opportunity to actually see what was amiss in their timepiece.

Roger Reifsnider brought a very unusual "Peeping Tom" clock, with many unusual figurines, made in the 1800s.

It was unanimously determined that all items presented were of equal interest and all qualified for a prize. It was a great meeting enjoyed by all. Next meeting 10 March 2010...

Patsy Rothen, secretary (1/23/10)

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 Armine, 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 Armine

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
March 10, 2010 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MARCH 10, 2010

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, WUSA 9, WBAL 11, WJZ 13, x 45, & WETA 26.)

The subject of the program for our next meeting will be 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 Forrestville, 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

Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form

Reservation for Free State 141 Meeting on _____

Name _____

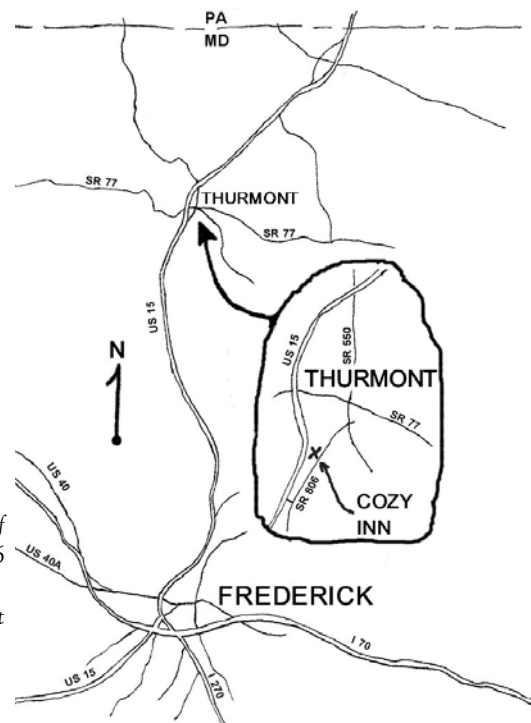
Guest Names _____

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

Lever Escape System

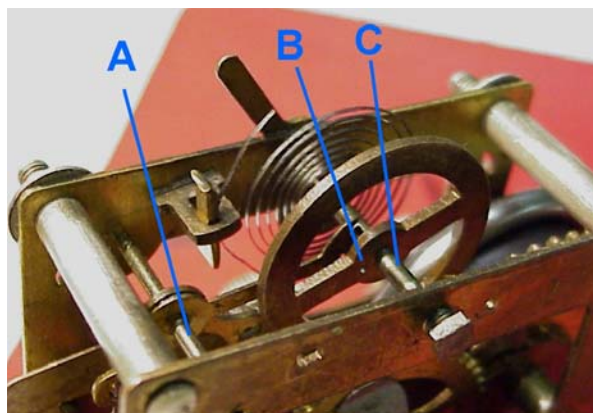
This time I want to talk a little about the lever escape system. While I was attempting to get one in beat it gave me pause to think about what I was dealing with. When the spring is standing still, un-energized plus or minus, it is similar to when the pendulum is hanging free and not swinging. As the balance wheel rotates clockwise it is equivalent to the pendulum swinging to one side and when it rotates counter clockwise it is equivalent to the pendulum swinging in the opposite direction. When a pendulum clock is fixed to the wall or on a shelf you can bend the crutch to adjust the position of the pallets at the neutral point and bring it into beat. With a clock or watch having a lever escapement you must do something to center the “neutral point”, i.e. no tension on the hair spring when the lever is aligned to position the escape pallets correctly relative to the escape wheel teeth (leaves).

The photograph shows this balanced (in beat) condition and you can note that the lever arbor (A), the pin (B) in the balance wheel and the balance arbor (staff) (C) are all lined up. This can be done by altering the point at which the end of the hairspring is staked or by rotating the hairspring hub on the balance wheel arbor. Once the end of the spring is correctly in place and staked or rotated to give the correct alignment we are dependent on the frequency of the spring to have a beat for the right timing. For the movement to work with the right beat rate we must consider the length, width and thickness as well as the hardness and temper of the hairspring. I don't want to get into hairspring selection at this time so we will assume that we have chosen a hairspring of the right frequency. Likewise, I assume the poise of the balance wheel is correct. Keep in mind that by altering the stake point on the hairspring, you are effectively altering the length of the hairspring and affecting the neutral point. Thus rotating the hairspring hub is probably the better way to go, i.e. changing one parameter at a time.

Looking at the fast/slow adjustment lever for making small changes in the beat rate, we find that as the spring will coil and uncoil in its operation it will move between the two sides of the adjustment lever slot. Changing the position of this slot along the hairspring has an effect similar to adjusting the length of a pendulum and changes the frequency characteristics of the hairspring system. This in

effect is likened to changing the length of the hairspring and conceivably could affect the balance point but is generally insignificant. Moving this hairspring adjustment slot farther away from the staked end of the spring it will have a limiting effect on how much the spring can coil and uncoil resulting in faster operation of the balance wheel. If the neutral point was not obtained in the initial balance (beat) adjustment, then the spring may uncoil less as the pallets move in one direction than in the other, putting the escape mechanism out of beat. This can result in poor timekeeping or movement stoppage. How quickly depends on how much off balance it is.

In the case of a pendulum clock this would be the equivalent of the pendulum swinging farther to one side of the drop-lock point than the other. In the case of a pendulum shelf clock, if it is lifted on one side, one can hear the beat become more even or maybe not. If not, lift the other side of the clock until the tick-tock does become more even. Having determined this, you can bend the crutch in



the direction of the side of the clock that was lifted and try again until you have brought it into beat. In the case of a watch or clock with a hair-spring you will have to adjust the staking point of the end of the hairspring, or preferably rotate its hub on the arbor. Electronic test instruments actually listen to the tick and counts the time for the pendulum or balance wheel going in

one direction and then the time in the other direction. The timepiece is adjusted for the minimum difference readings. Although the experienced clockmaker or watchmaker can do a pretty good job by ear, the electronic instrument adds more precision to the task. With the timepiece in good beat you are left to adjust the frequency of the beat so the clock keeps good time. If you have to adjust the staking point on the hairspring to obtain the right range for the BPH (beats per hour), you will likely have to readjust the “neutral point”. Often time when I clean and reassemble a clock, if I have done well, it will start ticking soon as it is assembled without having to start it and before it is oiled. That usually is a good sign. For those that don't, I usually double check to be sure I haven't missed anything and that there's nothing binding or some other problem.

Al Bush - 201002