



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

## Chapter 141 Officers

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Lou Orsini

### Vice President

Bob Rothen

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Neil Amrine

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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.

October / November — No.2010-06

## President's Message

Wow, hard to believe it's fall already, especially with some of the 90 degree weather we continued to enjoy (?). Fall is definitely one of my favorite times of the year - the weather is generally gorgeous (not too hot and not too cold); the foliage is beautiful; we're moving quickly toward fun holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving; there are all kinds of outdoor events and festivals going on; and it's a sports junkie's heaven with basketball and hockey starting, football in full swing, baseball playoffs underway, and the usual slew of other sports like racing and golf. And, of course, it is always a great time to work on our horological collections - whether buying, selling or repairing (or all three!) - and the pursuit of a hobby we all enjoy.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10th. Since either no one who attended the September meeting read the last President's Message all that closely, or else no one wanted to be surprised, I am reiterating my offer; all you have to do is be the first two members to ask me for the surprise at the meeting. If it doesn't work this time, I'll have to go to Plan B! Bob Rothen has enticed one of our newest members, Ern Grover, to make a presentation. Ern is a veteran clockmaker who joined us after moving to Virginia from Maine. He served as both Secretary and Workshop Chair of Maine Chapter 89, is presently the owner/moderator on the Clocksmiths electronic group, which you can find at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Clocksmiths/>, and he is an accomplished speaker. Ern will make a presentation on "The Clock With Great Legs" (a restoration project of the first tower clock to strike ships bells.

Now, Bob has proved time and again his prowess at bringing to the Chapter high quality presentations, but he can't do it alone - he needs our help. Now is your chance to shine! Everyone has something they really like to do and to talk about, and we provide the audience free of charge. Just think, you get to talk about the things you love, and everyone else gets the opportunity to learn something new. It's a win-win situation all the way around. You probably also know someone who would could put on a great program, if only someone would ask them - well go ask them! They don't need to be a member of our Chapter or even an NAWCC member; they only have to have knowledge or skills they can share that relate to clocks or watches. If you have an idea, let Bob know. Thanks for your assistance.

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other dangerous places throughout the world. We've all seen on the news how combat operations in Iraq are done and only U.S. trainers and advisors remain in country. That is true, but it does not mean that these soldiers are in any less danger than they were before. Iraq remains a dangerous place for our troops, and Afghanistan even more so. We are the most fortunate country in the world because of our people; those who serve in the military, particularly in time of war, are among the finest. Please look for opportunities to say thanks, and to lend military families of deployed members a hand. 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, November 10, 2010 at The Cozy Inn*

# Chapter 141 Minutes for the 8 September 2010 Meeting

On 8 September 2010, Freestate 141 held their meeting at the Cozy Inn in Thurmont, MD with approximately 30 members present. Several members set up Mart tables with a varied and interesting number of items available for sale and/or the usual discussions. After the meal, Lou Orsini called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone back to the usual forum. Since there were visitors and new members present, everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of what their horological interests included. It was good to see Mr. Reifsnider and Mr. Eric Kramer in attendance and well on the road to recovery. There was no new business to discuss by any of the Officers. Our program for the evening was presented by Ms. Sherry Kemp, an exceptional local artist, who gave a presentation on "Reverse Painting and Stenciling In Clock Restoration". Ms Kemp started going to auctions when she was 13 years of age and stated her father bought many items, some of which needed repairs. She became interested in assisting with repairs and



developed an exceptional talent in reverse painting on glass as well as stenciling on splats and columns. She carves and repairs paw feet, as well as restores wooden or metal dials with Roman or Arabic numerals. She provided samples of some of her restorations, and as expected, they were beautifully done. Ms.

Kemp works in pen and ink, oil, or casein. She brought two chairs that she had repaired then meticulously stenciled. Copies of actual stencils she used were passed around while she explained how each piece had to be individually made, cut out, then carefully placed. She made it sound easy, but believe me, I am sure it is not as easy she makes it sound!!!



The program made a very enjoyable evening for all members and introduced us all to a good reference for us for future use.

Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 23 September 2010

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 March. 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](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.

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](mailto:neil54@aol.com)

**If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting**  
**November 10, 2010 at the Cozy Inn**

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Our next meeting program will be presented by one of our newest members, Ern Grover. Ern is a veteran clockmaker who joined us after moving to Virginia from Maine. He served as both Secretary and Workshop Chair of Maine Chapter 89, is presently the owner/moderator on the Clocksmiths electronic group, which you can find at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Clocksmiths/>, and he is an accomplished speaker. Ern will make a presentation on "The Clock With Great Legs" (a restoration project of the first tower clock to strike ships bells). This will be another high quality presentation. As always 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. And don't forget the mart before the dinner.

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](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.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

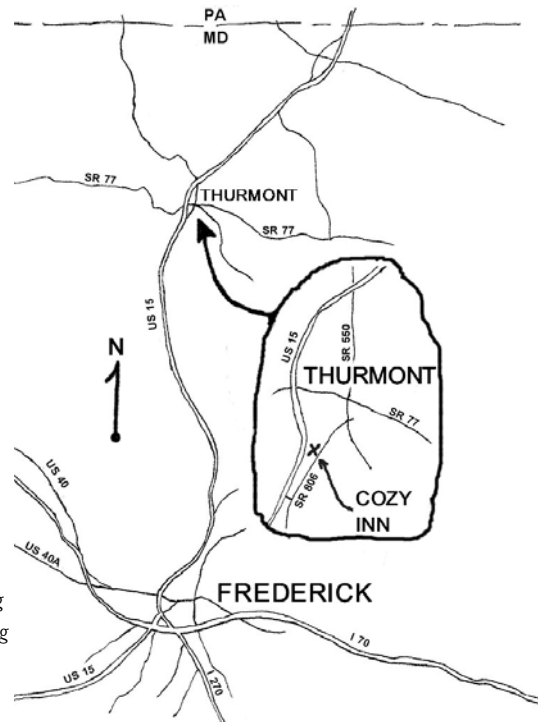
Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

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](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

Clocks, Art, Restoration, Repair

One of the questions about restoration, repair and working on clocks is, now that I've got the movement working, what do I do with the case? I don't relish case restoration but it is part of the process because I find most people do not enjoy seeing a bare movement sitting on a table ticking away without the case. At our last meeting we had the pleasure of listening to Sherry Kemp, a well known local professional artist, discuss some of her techniques and work associated with clocks. She displayed a sample of reverse glass painting she did especially for our meeting and discussed how it was made. The painting is shown in the photo



below. This was a framed picture but with appropriate sizing could have been a tablet for a clock. The Glass painting starts with a transparent primer on the glass followed by details that appear in the forefront of the picture then working to the back of the scene with the last painting being that part of the scene in the background. This is the opposite of how one paints a canvas where one paints the background and then works forward painting the forefront details last. She then coats the back of the painting with a final coat of paint (usually black) which also helps to protect the painting from nicks and scratches.

If you are thinking about tackling the job of painting a tablet for one of your clocks, my general advice would be to contact Sherry at 301-898-0118 and have a professional do it. Sherry has said she was available for such work if any of our members have a need for a reverse painted tablet. She also will do stenciling on splats and columns on clock cases. The photo below is a



clock she stenciled for one of our members on a mirror clock case. She also displayed two chairs that showed the results of her stenciling technique. Some of the older types of the medium used for the stenciling is scarce and hard to find, but newer types are available at art supply stores such as Michaels and Hobby Lobby stores along with material to make the stencils and brushes to apply it. Pounces can be made as needed by enclosing media in a fine mesh cloth. The stenciling is relative simple but the tricky part that takes some practice is applying it to obtain the shading and density variations (in the right places) to give it depth and beauty.

The art stores also have the supplies for painting on glass (or ceramic). There is the primer coating and then the various colors in either opaque or transparent media. I have heard it suggested that we wash the glass with vinegar before applying anything to it. This supposedly cleans off any undesirable residues that might cause the paint not to stick. Gentle soap and water might do just as well, just don't leave any residue. If you plan to attempt reverse painting, my first suggestion is to practice on an

old picture frame glass.



There are two approaches that can be used. First is the freehand painting and second is the use of stencils. The NAWCC Library has booklets of old stencil patterns from the past (Clock Decorating Stencils of Mid-19th Century Connecticut) that you can check out and copy.



If they are still in print, they may be available in the NAWCC Museum Gift Shop. If you use these patterns and stencil them on where overlapping colors are involved, stencil anything that goes in front on first and work your way to the back of the scene. The painting is done on the side of the glass facing inside the clock and the stencil is placed on the inside as well.

If you plan to freehand paint it, start with the details, highlights and parts of the image that will be in the forefront of the picture. And work to the back. If you wish to sketch it on paper first then place the sketch on the front of the glass as a guide for what you intend to paint, remember to sketch it as a mirror image of what you want to show looking at the front of the tablet. Paint the fine (front) details first as they show through from the sketched image. As you paint them on the glass they will obscure the sketch, but the second level will still show through and so forth until you have completed all layers. The risk or difficulty with this technique is that the sketch attached to the glass does not let you occasionally turn the tablet over and see how your work is progressing. Some people forego the sketch and actually position the tablet in front of a mirror so they can see what they are achieving as they go. Another technique is to make a pen and ink outline sketch and tape it to the tablet. Then with a fine brush, paint in a black outline to match the sketch and then remove the outline sketch and finish the color fill, using the mirror technique. As Sherry points out, when painting on a canvas, if you goof, you can paint over it. You can't do that with watercolors and you really can't do that in a reverse glass painting. So get it right as you go.



One other application I would like to mention is; I have a French clock with a case using ceramic panels. Some were missing. I obtained some white ceramic tile of the correct thickness and cut them to shape to fit in the clock case. I then called on my daughter, also a professional artist, to use the existing panels and art to



create replacement painting on the new panels. She used the medium designed for painting on glass to generate matching painted panels. (See photos) We discussed painting the ceramic and firing it in a kiln but decided this would work well and be much simpler. I have found this to work quite satisfactorily. I also discussed the problem of broken feet and missing splat decorations with Sherry. She said she has carved new feet and case decorations and replaced missing or broken parts on wooden cases. She can also repair many broken metal cases. If you are facing problems restoring a favorite case, contact her to see if she can help you. She is located in the Fredrick area.

Al Bush 2010-06