



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

August / September – No.2011-05

Chapter 141

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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

Wow, is the summer ever flying quickly by; seems like we just met and September is already creeping up on us. I hope it has been an enjoyable couple of months and that everyone is gearing up for the fall and the many activities that brings. I still think it's a really great time of the year with cooling temperatures and multiple sports going on simultaneously. As you know, we had to cancel our annual picnic this year due to a very low projected turnout. Apparently then timing did not fit many member calendars, and it would not have been practical to have continued given the minimum expenses involved. My sincere thanks to **Roger** and **Romaine Reifsnider** for their offer to host the picnic this year; especially given Roger's current chemo-therapy. We certainly wish Roger all the best in his recovery, and hope he can rejoin us very soon.

For those who may not have heard, it is with deep regret that I advise you of the passing of one of our newest members (but long standing participant), **Letitia (Tink) Schlotterbeck**. Tink passed away on July 22nd just 7 months after Doug's passing – they had been married 58 years. Please keep Tink and Doug in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14 at the usual time and place. Our guest speaker this time will be **Michael Greenwald** and **"Mac" McLean**, who will talk about the Masonic Watch, emphasizing the Dudley Watch Co. Believe me, this is a presentation not to be missed! Shifting gears slightly, please don't forget to renew your membership with Neil; the new year started on July 1st and annual dues remain a very affordable \$8/year. Heck, you can't even go to a movie for that price! You can mail him a check anytime or pay him at the meeting. Our goal is 100% renewal – let's get off to a good start!

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan**, as well as over the skies of Libya and other dangerous places throughout the world. The recent tragic loss of 30 of our very best when their helicopter was shot down over eastern Afghanistan is another strong reminder of the danger our folks face daily. Please take the time to thank our fighting men and women who suffer great hardship to defend our country and our way of life. 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 14th, 2011 at The Cozy Inn

Activities of Freestate Chapter 141— Period of July—August 2011

There was no meeting in July and therefore no minutes. Because of the low registration for the picnic it was not reasonable to proceed with the picnic this year. We do appreciate and thank **Roger and Romaine Reifsnider** for their offer to host the get together and wish Roger the very best with his current chemotherapy. We look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

Al Bush for *Patsy Rothen (Secretary) August 2011*



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 like to remind all members to send in their dues, if they are not fully paid... dues were due at the end of June.

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.

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 Ogdan Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816.
Phone:301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com

If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting

September 14th, 2011 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 14th, 2011



We have a program lined up featuring Members Michael Greenwald and William "Mac" McLean presenting a talk on the origin and history of the **Masonic Watch** with emphasis on the **Dudley Watch Co.** It will discuss how William Wallace Dudley got started, where he got his idea to make a Masonic watch, pictures of the factory and a very detailed comparison of his watches and cases and we will discuss copycat watches and show pictures of other Masonic watches. Many models will be available to see in person. You can be assured it will be interesting and enjoyable. Plan on attending, 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. (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 _____

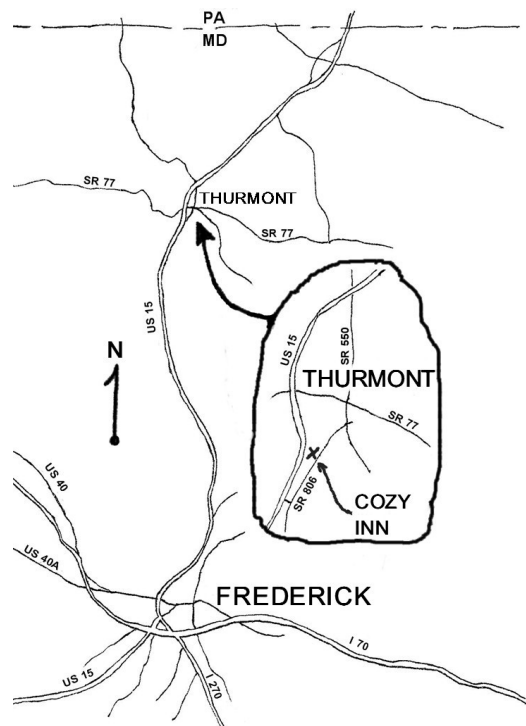
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

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.

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

Inside the Talking Alarm

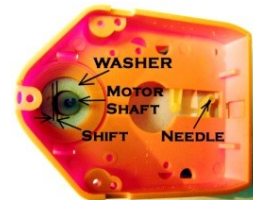
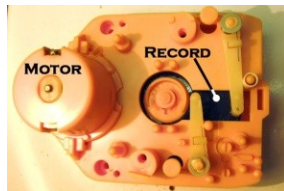
As most of you are aware many features found in clocks and watches are being replicated or replaced in some way with electronic and electromechanical devices. To me, mechanical animations are interesting and fascinating. I became interested in some of the new electromechanical devices as well. This includes not

only the animation but the production of sounds. We have the chimes, gongs and bells and don't forget the whistles. The sound of the cuckoo driven by a bellows has been around for many years. Recently we have seen the use of recorded sound being played back by clever reproducer devices. The latest type are the memory devices that digitally store the data which is electronically played back as sounds. These do not provide much recourse for repair. When one of them fails it usually



requires replacement of an electronic chip. The source of power is usually a battery that drives the sound device and often its quartz movement too. So these are mostly limited to battery replacement or re-soldering of a wire that might have been broken. Earlier clocks had a mechanical wind up movement and a battery with motor driven animation. There are a number of these on the market, particularly in the novelty area. I have some of these in my collection, four of which are shown here. When you look inside you find a rather standard mechanical clock movement but I was intrigued with the sound generation.

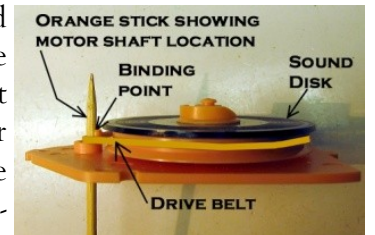
You can see the record noted in the photo. The disk is also peaking through the photo that shows the needle and reset lever. The Star Wars clock did not work and I will describe the kind of problems it exhibited and can occur on these clocks, but first let me describe how they work. The battery powered motor uses a rubber band as a pulley belt to drive a pulley on which the sound disk is mounted. When the unit is activated with the clock alarm switch, the needle travels in the sound groove on the disk causing vibrations to be transmitted to the sound cone shown in the clock



bottom view, thus producing the sound output. When the needle arm has traveled to the inner circle it trips the reset lever that causes the action of lifting the needle and moving it back to the start of the record. Considering what is involved, I consider the sound to be quite acceptable. The pitch of the sound decreases as the battery becomes discharged and the motor slows down.

The problem encountered in this clock was no sound at all. Examination showed the pulley belt to be broken. To replace this and reassemble it you place the belt (a rubber band of appropriate size) on the large pulley and hook it over the protruding collar that the motor shaft comes through. The pulley belt runs directly on the motor's shaft without a pulley. As you assemble the disk unit back onto the motor section, a long, small diameter probe was used to flip the pulley belt up off of the collar and onto the motor shaft. Hold the two parts together and insert the holding screw. At this point power applied to

the motor will rotate the sound disk if you have correctly assembled it and the rest of the clock can be assembled completing the job. I did find a second problem where the rubber band pulley belt exerts pressure on the motor shaft pulling it closer to the sound disk. This is particularly true with a new rubber



band that may be of smaller diameter than the original. The shaft/pulley end of the motor is held centered by a soft plastic spacing washer. As the motor, and its shaft move closer to the sound disk it binds on the collar. The stalled motor will drain the battery. The binding is shown in the photo with a bamboo stick used to show the position the motor shaft assumes. I cured this problem by using a fiber washer cut to fit snug around the motor bearing hub and fit snug inside the motor opening. A small drop of glue held it in place nicely. The fiber washer spaced the motor back and all worked well, thereby making some grandchildren quite happy.



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Al Bush 2011-05