



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

Chapter 141

Officers

President

Lou Orsini

Vice President

Bob Rothen

Treasurer

Neil Amrine

Secretary

Patsy Rothen

Newsletter Coordinator

Al Bush

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

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.2012-05

President's Message

It has been a while now since we were last together, and I hope everyone is having a great summer. Seems like time keeps slipping away faster every year, which is pretty ironic for all of us since our passion involves timekeeping. As most of you already know, we lost one of our long-time members on May 18 when **Roger Reifsnider** passed away following a lengthy bout with cancer. Roger was an active member of the Chapter, and would bring in some of the most unusual and interesting items to our annual Show & Tell. He and Romaine graciously hosted our picnic a couple of times, and provided a most informative and impressive tour of their wonderful collection of clocks and music boxes. The following sentences from his obituary describe Roger very well: "He was a lifelong farmer and operated Reifsnider's Farm Supply and Antique Shop in Keymar. He was a member of the Grace United Church of Christ in Taneytown, the National Clock Association, the National Antique Music Box Society and the Carroll County Farm Bureau. He enjoyed attending auctions and antique collecting, especially cars, clocks and music boxes." Let me again convey our deepest condolences to Romaine and the rest of his family on their loss. We will all miss him.

It is unfortunate that we again this year had to cancel our annual picnic because we did not have enough reservations to make it worthwhile. I apologize to those who made your reservations, but the cost would have far exceeded the value to the chapter. In addition, there is a tremendous amount of work associated with hosting this event, and I could not in good conscious ask **Bob & Patsy Rothen** to make that sacrifice when there would be so few to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Since this is the second year in a row we had to cancel, I can only assume that there is not enough interest

among our members for an annual picnic, and so we will not plan for one next year. If things significantly change, we can revisit that decision. Again, I am most grateful to Bob & Patsy for volunteering to host the picnic, and I know they are disappointed as well that we had to cancel.

On the good news side, please join me in welcoming aboard new members **Ray and Jackie Snouffer** and their son **Alex** from Hagerstown, MD; we hope to see them at our next meeting, which by the way is September 12. For this meeting, I encourage every member to **bring a guest – free of charge!** That's right, the Chapter will absorb the cost of one guest for each member (that includes spouses), so please take advantage to bring someone new (or old) to the meeting. Let's share the fun!

And don't forget to **pay your dues**. Our new fiscal year started July 1 – if you haven't renewed yet, please see **Neil Amrine** at the meeting, or simply mail him a check. Once again, we are keeping the cost at just \$8/year; it's hard to find a better bargain anywhere.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan**, and other dangerous places throughout the world. We owe these heroic folks our gratitude and support as they stand in harm's way to protect our freedoms. Whenever you see a service member, please take the opportunity to thank them for their faithful and unselfish service. 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 12th, 2012 at The Cozy Inn

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 Meeting, March 14, 2012

The Freestate Chapter 141 meeting of 9 May 2012 was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Lou Orsini. As usual, the Mart was interesting and the meal fabulous. Approximately 30 members were present to enjoy the meeting featuring a presentation by Mr Joe Abrams. President Orsini announced that the Chapter's share of the Woodsboro meeting was \$289.92. Vice President Bob Rothen announced a picnic date had been set and urged members to attend and enjoy the fellowship. (Unfortunately, the picnic had to be cancelled). Treasurer Neil Amrine supplied the treasurer's report and also reminded members that it is time to pay our dues. Al Bush checked with the members to be sure all were receiving the Newsletter. Mrs. Nancy Tresansky informed the membership that she had pulled up the Chapter 141 information on the website and stated that the information was more than 5 years old - very outdated (i.e. 2007). This site was not Chapter 141's official website and it was agreed that the site needed to be cancelled or updated. (The official website of NAWCC Chapter 141 is located here: <http://community.nawcc.org/chapter141/home>.) Neil Amrine stated a friend needs a Hamilton 947 movement or Hamilton 947 extra movement. Mr. Dan Webber was welcomed back after being absent for a long period due to a horrific auto accident.

Bob Rothen introduced the Guest Speaker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Abrams. Joe started collecting clocks in college and in the past 51 years, has gathered a variety of clocks. He has always liked small clocks but has really never seen a clock he didn't like!!!! Joe showed various old travel clocks which were similar to large watches but were mostly table clocks that traveled with you. The first carriage clock was made in 1798 in France by Abraham Louis Brequet. They were called "pendule de voyage" which translated as "Trip Clock". These clocks were later produced with many different complications including musical, chimes, thermometers, moon dials, etc. and were made mostly for the wealthy individuals. The importance of carriage clocks was related by telling us the historical anecdote about Napoleon Bonaparte almost losing an important battle because one of his Officers showed up late. From then on, all his Military Chiefs were required to have a carriage clock with them at all times. Joe's presentation delightfully followed the

development of clocks from these early carriage clocks to modern clocks. His presentation covered travel clocks in the 1500s, Abraham Louis Brequet 1798, Jerome clocks from 1822, Tiffany, Waterbury, Ansonis & American Electrical Novelty clocks from 1850, New Haven 1853, Seth Thomas 1853, Welch 1853, S.B. Jerome 1863-1878, Parker & Whipple 1868, Kroeber 1870, Gilbert 1871, Yale 1879, Phelps & Bartholomew 1884, Boston 1884, Parker 1893, Chelsea 1897, and Lux 1017 to the present time. We look forward to his next informative presentation.



Editors Note: Since the picnic was canceled, the Newsletter for June-July (No. 2012-04) was canceled as well. Since the June-July issue was not published Chapter 141 wishes to take this opportunity to note the passing of longtime member **Roger Reifsnider**, Friday May 18, 2012. He was an avid collector and could always be depended on to bring a most interesting clock to show and tell events. Roger will be missed by all and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. The May meeting minutes normally published in June-July are published in this issue as well. It should also be noted that the website noted in the minutes has been closed. However we have found another one at <http://www.scherr-usa/NAWCC/nawcc.html>. It has not been updated since 2007. So far attempts to contact our member, Stephen Scherr, to update or remove the site have failed so for the time being please be sure you have connected with our official site on the NAWCC server by going to the NAWCC website and selecting the Chapter 141 website under the community section.

Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 11 (April 2012)

"Treasurer's Tidbits"

Hi folks!

I would 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 May. 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.

FREE STATE CHAPTER 141 MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS

Date _____ NAWCC No. _____ Interests _____

(CLOCKS, WATCHES, TOOLS, OTHER)

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to Receive Newsletter via Email ☐ or US Mail ☐

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

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

September 12th, 2012 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 12th, 2012

The theme for our September meeting is a Horological Program based on our members talking briefly about their current horological projects or problems. George Tresansky and several others have volunteered to lead off the event, I would like to encourage any member experiencing a problem with a clock or watch, or, who has a project to show off, come prepared to share with the group. Perhaps collectively we can solve a problem, and certainly we will be appreciative of any interesting new accusations you would like to present, so if you have any horological questions or problems, be prepared to ask or present them. Our group has many members with a broad expanse of experience and skills who are willing to contribute their expertise to help fellow members. 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 _____

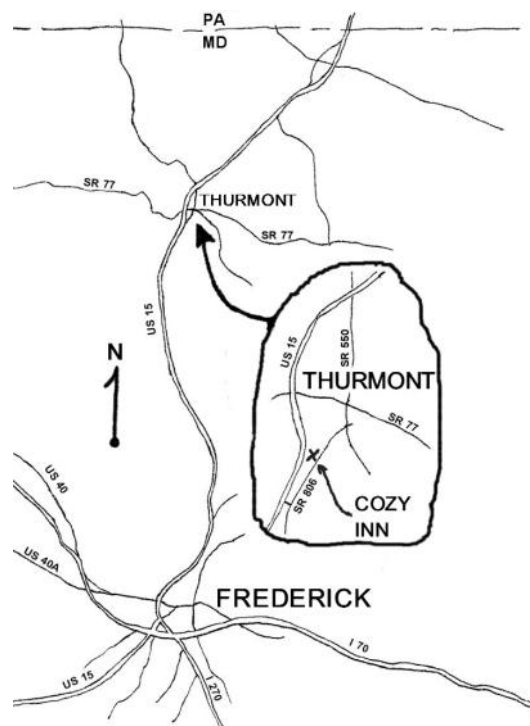
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

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

Vienna regulator OOPS! Part I

First let me say this will be the first of multiple tech tip articles to cover this subject. Recently I received a clock for repair from an old friend. Needless to say he was totally embarrassed. He had removed the retaining pins holding the plates of a Vienna regulator movement. The weights were still in place. He knew better but one thing led to another and the next thing he knew, the plates were loose and a few wheels were laying on the table. It was then that I received a phone call, HELP. He FedEx'ed the clock to me, less the case. The plates were intact. The wheels were in a baggie and the other parts were well packaged for shipping. My first step was to inventory the parts and evaluate their condition. There was no hint of which wheels went where. I had worked on a Gustave Becker Vienna regulator for him once before and have one of my own in my shop for restoration. So I thought how hard could it be? I also like to work with jigsaw puzzles.

I begin by sorting the parts into piles from the time train, the strike train, etc. and began to fit the movement back together. The only sneaky thing I ran into was the escape wheel. Its pinion was mid-arbor and it would mesh with the time train with the escape wheel (EW) facing the front or the rear plate. However, when you include the anchor and pallets it defines that the escape wheel must go with the pinion facing the rear. I tried the time train to see if it was workable. It was not and the obvious reason was bent teeth on the EW. At the same time I visually checked the strike train and it appeared functional.

Next I photographed the wheel placement for future reference. I could see that teeth on the escape wheel were significantly bent, a couple of teeth on one of the other time train wheels were bent and some pins on the hammer trip wheel appeared displaced. The next step was to clean all of the parts and then begin the repairs. But first I determined the beat rate to be 4856.25 by counting the teeth in the time train. Comparing this to "The Clockmakers Beat Book, version 2004" this clock is a German, 8 day, T&S, 2 weight Vienna regulator. It could be a Carl Schwetz and/or Wein although I found no markings on the movement or dial to verify this. The only markings I found were "O" stamped on each of most parts. (This indicated to me that parts are not necessarily interchangeable and may be tailored to this clock).

My concern was to get the time train functional. Once the parts were cleaned I reassembled the movement, less levers on the outside of the front plate for the strike train. This disconnected the time train from the strike train. I delay oiling the clock at this time since I may be disassembling and reassem-

bling the movement. The first item to tackle is the escape wheel. It is shown in the photograph below as it was received

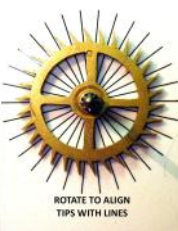
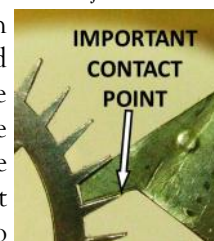


with crooked teeth. To straighten the teeth, I used a pair of flat nosed pliers to pull and straighten each tooth. This results in stretching some of the teeth making them longer. This was corrected

using the lathe and gently removing a minimal amount of metal



with each pass so as to not to bend the teeth again. It is recommended to hold the EW in the lathe by its arbor to not damage the pivots. Since the Vienna regulator is a precision instrument and the EW rotates on its pivots, not the arbor, I elected to use the pivots. To protect the pivots I plan to remove minimal metal on each pass. This is necessary to prevent bending the teeth as well. I will also polish the pivots later. By watching the tips (and listening to the sound) I made multiple passes until the tip of all the teeth were shining indicators that they had been trimmed and then checked them individually. (Keep in mind that any metal you remove will be reducing the diameter of the wheel). By trimming minimal metal you should not have to significantly reduce the wheel diameter considering the fact that you may have lengthened the teeth when you straightened them. Now that we have straightened and trimmed all of the teeth we need to remove any burrs we may have created. The straight front point of each tooth is the important area since that is where the pallets contact and must slide by for pendulum over swing. Two things remain. The tooth front points must be equally spaced from tooth to tooth and the back edge of flattened tooth tips must not interfere with pallet motion. I dressed down the backside of all tooth points with a pivot file to take care of the latter problem. In order to satisfy the problem of spacing I used a thin piece of brass and filed a pattern that just fits the space between each tooth. This pattern can now be placed between each tooth around the wheel as a gauge. I used a strong piece of brass and actually used it to force the teeth apart if they were to close. I made several passes around the wheel to correct



and gauge the spacing. To verify the tooth spacing, I used a computer CAD drawing program to draw and print a pattern of 12° radial lines on a 1 to 1 scale. I mounted this to a small sheet of aluminum and very carefully drilled a hole in the center for the arbor of the EW. By laying the EW on the pattern I could visually observed the fit of the tooth tips to the pattern. At this point we have a workable escape wheel. Stay tuned and we will deal with its installation in the next tech tip.

Al Bush 2012-05