Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

February / March — *No.2012-02*

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Lou Orsini

Vice President
Bob Rothen

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Neil Amrine

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Patsy Rothen

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Al Bush

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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.*

President's Message

Hasn't this been the strangest winter ever? It seems that every day brings another question; should I bundle up or wear my shorts? Normally I wouldn't bother reminding folks about our winter weather warning for meeting cancellations this late in the season, but we're as likely to have two feet of snow in mid-March as we are to have 75 degree temperatures, so I will reiterate our policy. If the Frederick schools close that day due to inclement weather, we will cancel our meeting—otherwise it's a go. For those who may have missed our last meeting, you can see from **Patsy Rothen**'s column that it was exceptional. We had several great presentations, and although there were only three award winners, we could have had all seven receive prizes—they were all that good.

We also welcomed aboard two new members at our last meeting: **Ray Runion** from Mount Airy, MD and **Alex Cummins** of Wheaton, MD. Both came as guests and left as members; that's the kind of guests we really like! Ray and Alex are both primarily watch collectors.

Our next meeting is 14 March, and should be another good one. As you know, **Bob Rothen** always manages to come up with a great program and this time is no exception. Friction, oiling and bearing wear is a topic dear to us all. Bob has prepared an interesting and informative presentation, which will definitely be of interest to everyone, regardless of your horological preference. But Bob can't do it all himself and could really use our help, so if you have a subject you are passionate about, please let Bob know and he will get you on the schedule. Don't worry if you've never made a presentation before as there are plenty of folks willing to help you out and the audience is very forgiving! In addition, you will find that the time you put into preparing the presentation will be personally rewarding for the confidence and additional knowledge that results from it. Besides, there are always others who will be able to add to the presentation and help you learn more about the subject. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about, tell Bob that too. He might be able to obtain someone to address the subject.

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 we have withdrawn our combat troops from Iraq, and are seeing a somewhat more stable situation in Afghanistan, both remain very dangerous and challenging places for all our personnel in country including those in the diplomatic and humanitarian assistance fields. We can be most thankful for the many brave young men and women who continue to answer the call to serve our country while always being prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. We owe these heroes our eternal gratitude for protecting us and our way of life. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home. Also please take the opportunity whenever you can to say thank you to our military folks; it means a great deal to them to know that we really care.

Lou Orsini, president

Our next meeting will be ..... Wednesday, March 14th, 2012 at The Cozy Inn

Minutes of Freestate Chapter141 Meeting, January 11, 2012

The Freestate Chapter 141 meeting was called to order by President Lou Orsini at 7:15 PM after the Mart and Meal were concluded. The New Year was started with each person introducing themselves and making a short statement on what we did and where we were from. Two new members were introduced - Ray Runion and Alex Cummins. Bob Rothen discussed the possibility of joining with another Watch group to take a bus to the Hermle factory in Asheville, VA. If enough people are interested in a one day trip, the cost would be approximately $75.00 per person. Neil Amrine gave the Treasurer's Report stating we were in pretty good shape and the actual report was available for all to see. Al Bush asked that if anyone hasn't been getting their newsletter, please contact him so the problem can be corrected. Ray Runion stated he has a 992B that needs repair. It needs a main spring and balance spring and wants to know if the club knew of anyone who could fix it. Also, the Cabin Fever Expo is being held in York, Pa. this weekend and many items will be available for purchase.

My apologies to Neil Amrine. Due to a hiccup in my memory about the 9 November 2011 meeting, I forgot to include Neil's interesting talk about how the FEDEX man fixed his clock. Neil had been looking for a bezel to put on one of his clocks but hadn't been successful. Seems the FEDEX man left a round tube at his home and Neil discovered the round metal end was just perfect for the clock he was fixing. Just goes to show, there is more than one solution to a problem.

This meeting was "Show And Tell" and due to the large number of interesting items, I find I must shorten some descriptions so they will all fit the limited space. Please do not get your feelings hurt - I will do my best. HE WHO COMPLAINS GETS TO WRITE THE MINUTES NEXT MONTH!

George Hudson showed a small ivory handled scraper he bought several years ago and found that it is very useful for cleaning the edges of tubing. George demonstrated a stand he had made with splayed legs to give stability. He explained the many and varied ways to adapt this stand with items he had made so he could work on most any movement.

Frank Goad brought three "Ball" named watches which were created for Railroad Standard Time keeping. On any Ball Watches, the maker of the watch was not on the movement. The dials of two have on them "Official Railroad Standard". The third watch had "B of LE " on the dial. Frank was very fortunate to get this watch on EBay from an Engineer on the Santa Fe RR and it had been used by him from 1980 - 2005. Nice to know that nice bargains are still available. Wish I had space to go into the detail on all three watches because they were beautiful and interesting.

Tom Mostyn showed how he bought a little ratchet in Home Depot, put wings on it and used it to wind clocks so the key doesn't hit the glass. He also showed a clock with grasshopper escapement and a compound pendulum - one at the top and one at the bottom. It has a fuzee movement. The Boston Clock movement he showed was considered to be "The Handiwork of the Devil". The movement has one winding order with two springs - one spring winds one way and the other winds the other way. Since it was hard to let both springs down, Tom explained the secret of how to do it so you could work on it.

First Prize Winner Tom Mostyn

Mel Kornspan talked about his Grandfather Clock, probably made between 1891 and 1929. It worked like a kitchen clock except it had a pendulum. Mostly oak with a glass door with a dial marked "Ithica". Clocks sometimes were given as premiums for the purchase of various items such as 50 boxes of Fruit Juicy chewing gum plus S&H of $5.00. This clock was sold in 1904 for $29.50 including shipping.

Fred Crow brought a Mystery Clock, a "Figure Eight" in a tube dated 1863. It works like a normal clock but when the temperature goes over 80 degrees, the liquid (composition unknown) action reverses and it goes up!!!

Dan Webber bought a Walter Durfee Lyre Clock at an Auction House in Maine. He only bid $1,500. and won the clock which is worth $12,000 - $15,000. The standard Waltham movement was okay but the case needed lots of work. He brought pictures to show some of the restoration that is being done and the progress being made.

Darcy Bertelman brought a Tape Measure Clock. It is a 30 hour wind up manufactured by Lux Mfg Co. It is made in two pieces and the top sits on a bottom that has a small line mark to show the current time, which is marked in quarters, half-quarters, etc. It is called a one-handed clock.

The Winners were chosen as Tom Mostyn, Dan Webber, and Frank Goad. The meeting was dismissed with well wishes for all!

—Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 11 October 2011

"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 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 (josephpjoyce@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 March 14th, 2012 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MARCH 14th, 2012

Bob Rothen

The theme for our next meeting is Tribology. For those of you unfamiliar with the term it covers the entire area of friction and wear including lubrication and the related mutual interactions between contacting surfaces. Thus you can see where it is of great importance to watch and clock makers and those who attempt to keep them running. Our presenter will be Bob Rothen who has had much experience with the subject in the machining world. If we had no friction would you be able to walk? Would your watch run? Your clock tick? What causes a squeak? How does oil spread? It should be a very interesting talk. 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_____

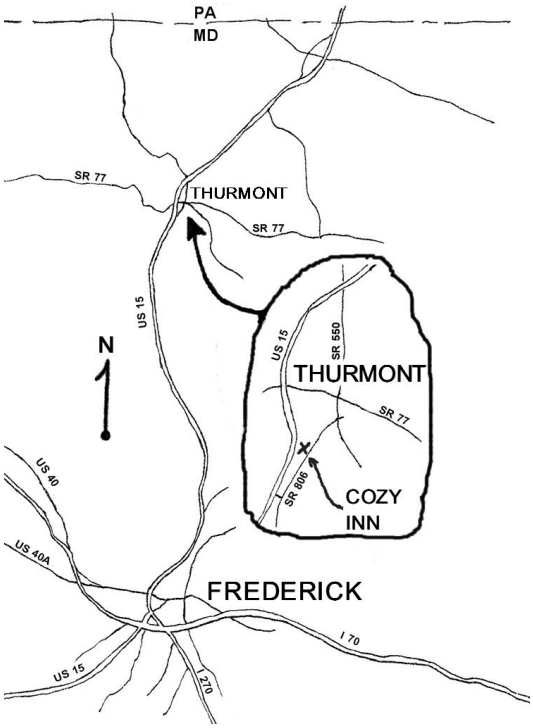
Number coming _____ x $16.00 = Total $_____

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

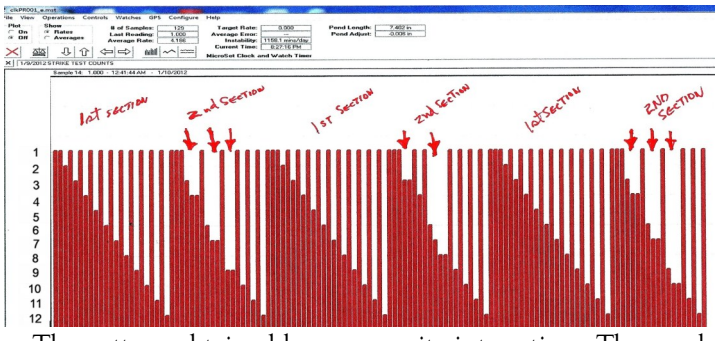
To Repair a Clock, Part III

The last two articles dealt with the servicing of a Kitchen clock that had a problem of stopping for unknown reasons. While I had intended to conclude the Kitchen clock discussion with Part II, it seems worthwhile to add Part III. Previously we discussed the clock, some of the problem possibilities, what we found and the repair. We included charts showing the improvement after servicing. Its performance for the bench test showed that the problem had been corrected and the clock should now give good service. All of this continues to be true, one of the things I did not check before servicing was strike accuracy since the owner had not mentioned any difficulty there.

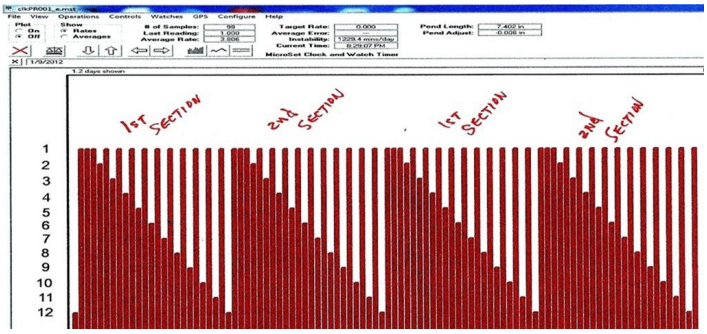
Once the clock was assembled in its case and the strike hammer adjusted to strike the gong, I found that it did not always strike the correct count. It would mis-strike. This model clock includes a count wheel with slots defining the hours and it has a count wheel that rotates once in 24 hours. It thus has two sets of 1 thru 12 counts on the wheel.

The MicroSet tester has a provision to count and document the strikes. The information can be collected via sound with the microphone input or by placing a flag on the strike hammer and using the optical sensor so the strikes can be counted without the risk of background noise causing reading errors. I attached an opaque flag to the side of the hammer and placed the sensor so that the light path was broken each time the hammer struck. I forgot the hammer bounces when it hits. This is why we adjust the hammer to be a slight distance away from the gong when at rest. It keeps it from hitting the gong multiple times per strike. In this case the bouncing was picked up on the optical sensor. I repositioned the flag on the back of the hammer and adjusted the sensor to sense the strike on the back swing. This worked well.

The chart below shows the strike data recorded on the first test run. This test can be run rapidly on a pendulum type clock by removing the pendulum or even advancing the hand to the strike time. It records each sequence independent of time registered on the dial. In the malfunctioning case below the dial indication and strike count will not always be together. It does give us the sequential count which is what we are after. When corrected the dial can be adjusted to coincide with the strike.



The pattern obtained here was quite interesting. The graph represents the number of strikes, the first at the top being one strike and each step down shows one count more. You will note that in between each count number the count returns to a one count. This is the single gong strike that sounds on the half hour. You will further note that the first 12 strikes with the half hour strike between each are the correct numbers. However, when the second half of the count wheel comes into play we see missed and erroneous counts. Looking at the first part one would conclude that the lever must be adjusted correctly and is dropping in each slot as it should, when it should. This leads one to suspect an error in the wheel, but considering the techniques used to make the wheel it does not seem likely. Also it must be assumed that the clock worked properly when new. When looking at the second section one sees that the misses (errors) do not always appear to be on the same slots of the count wheel. If it was the wheel dimensions, that should be visible from observation which it was not. The 2 o'clock position has a very narrow tab and it had been bent somewhat, an obvious problem that I had already corrected by carefully bending it back to its correct position. My conclusion, for the moment, was that the tolerances were sufficiently tight that a very slight deviation in the shape and positioning of the count wheel strike lever was enough to throw the count off. Thus by cycling through each strike and adjusting the lever (by bending) to clear the front and trailing edge of each slot I was able to get the strike count to be correct. Don't forget that when it is adjusted for section 2, you have to go back and verify it did not throw section 1 out of adjustment.



Finally, after trial and error adjustments, I was able to get a correct strike count all the way around both sections of the count wheel. The chart below shows the final result.

All now seems to be well with the clock. The question remains as to why one half of the count wheel was good and one not so good. One theory was that the wheel was not mounted on true center making one side more sensitive than the other or maybe pivot holes are misaligned. Since the clock was working and keeping time well I did not disassemble it to verify and it has now been returned to its owner.

Al Bush 2012-02