



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

## Chapter 141

### Officers

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Vice President

Bob Rothen

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Neil Amrine

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George Hudson

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For more information about the chapter, you may contact the President Lou Orsini by email

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or phone 703-352-7260.

Feedback or questions pertaining to the Newsletter

should be addressed

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or (410)531-5307.

October / November – No.2012-06

## President's Message

I love this time of year! Autumn is in full swing with leaves turning color and (not so great) falling fast. The baseball playoffs have begun in earnest with both Washington and Baltimore playing - I do believe that is a first, even considering their predecessors. And of course, football is going strong with a new QB and renewed optimism in DC, while Baltimore remains one of the better NFL teams. Basketball is not far behind and hockey is, well, stuck in another labor dispute. Doesn't anyone learn anything from the past? For us, there are still plenty of clock and watch activities including **our next meeting on Wednesday, November 14**. It's our last meeting for the year, so bring your holiday cheer to share. And it's not too early to start thinking about what you are going to bring to the January meeting for Show & Tell (fair warning).

Unfortunately, I missed our last meeting due to business travel; September always seems to be a busy month for me and I have no control over my travel schedule. But at least right now, the date of this month's meeting remains clear on my calendar. I hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed our last meeting, which I understand went very well. Once again, kudos to **Bob Rothen** for organizing a fantastic program - and a huge thanks to **George Tresansky, George Hudson, Tom Mostyn** and **Bob Rothen** for sharing their special projects and interesting items. I also am quite pleased to hear that several of you took advantage of our "free guest" special - this is a return on your investment into your chapter. Another way we are using our funds is to support our speakers. Specifically, we recently purchased a new projector to use for our programs and presentations. In this instance, **Horological Association of Maryland (HAM)** picked up half of the

cost of the projector so that they too could use it. This is a win for both chapters. As always, I am interested to hear of other ideas on how we can judiciously spend our (limited) funds to benefit the membership.

One final administrative note: there are still a few members who have not yet paid **this year's dues**. As you know, our fiscal year started July 1, and we count on everyone renewing their membership each year. I understand that it's easy to forget (I'm always forgetting something!), and so I'm including this reminder. If you have not yet paid for the 2012-2013 year, please see **Neil Amrine** at the meeting, or simply mail him a check. The cost remains just \$8/year; I don't see how you could 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**. Even as we continue to pull out of Iraq, those who remain are still in harm's way. While I refer primarily to our military, there are many other U.S. Government personnel serving in dangerous places as well, who also deserve our gratitude and support. One needs only consider the recent attack in Libya in which our Ambassador and three other brave government officials were killed to see how dangerous serving overseas can be. So please take every opportunity to thank our service members and others standing watch for American freedoms in far away and dangerous locations around the world, and 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 14th, 2012 at The Cozy Inn*

# Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 Meeting, September 12, 2012

**Bob Rothen** called the meeting to order in the absence of President Lou Orsini, who is out of the country on business. Everyone around the room introduced themselves and stated their areas of interest. New members, **Ray and Alex Snouffer**, were introduced. Particular note was made that **Alex Snouffer** was the youngest person to ever take the course at the National. His interest is in clock repair. They were welcomed with a round of applause. We are particular proud to have new young members and wish Alex the best.

It was noted that elections are overdue and anyone interested in running for office should contact **Bob Rothen** or **Lou Orsini**. If you are interested or know of another member who might be interested please let Bob or Lou know.

It was also noted that **Bill Erickson** had passed away in August 2012. He was an old member who collected watches and gold chains. All of our thoughts are with his family.

We had hoped to have to have **Rick Schindler**, curator of clocks at the Renfrew Museum, Waynesboro, PA as the speaker. Rick was able to attend the meeting, but was unable to give a presentation due to a current project he is working on for the museum. However, he offered to give his presentation at a future date; hopefully when the new building at the Renfrew is completed.

The program was *Special Projects You Are Working On*. The program started with **George Tresansky** who is building a clock. He became interested in clocks 30 to 40 years ago when his doctor invited him to join a clock club. George has developed a machine shop in his basement. He is currently building a grasshopper movement with a compound pendulum and two escape wheels. George is modifying the plans to include ball bearings to reduce friction and plans that the clock will not require lubrication.

## “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](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 November. 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.

## 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](mailto:neil54@aol.com)

**George Hudson** then brought in and discussed a brass movement that he obtained in 1967 when he bought out the inventory of a wooden clock shop. It has two barrels and is time only. He put it on the self and in 1979, when he was in St. Louis on a business trip, saw a similar movement. In 2012, when he was in Syracuse, NY, he was told it was an Atkins clock, identified by the fact it had only four spokes on the escape wheel. He thought he had an Atkins and he diagramed the movement and calculated it to be a ninety beat movement eight day clock. He sent the photo to **Phil Gregory**, who said it was a Welsh movement and perhaps Atkins made it for Welsh.

**Tom Mostyn** commented on the fuzee movement in **George Tresansky’s** clock and explained the purpose of the fuzee, as well as how to make a fuzee. Tom then showed an impressive collection of miniature clocks, all of which he has made. He got started by making a simple grandfather clock for the dollhouse of a friend. From there he progressed on to more and more detailed and complicated clocks. They were well displayed and everyone was invited to see the miniatures and ask questions. They all quite small, dollhouse size, and were actual working clocks using miniature quartz movements.

**Bob Rothen** brought in a "jewelry casket" from the 1880's from the Denison Watch Company, which was for the purpose of cleaning watches. The small "casket" contained a brush, soap and saw dust to dry the watches. It was a fascinating moment from the past.

**Bob Rothen** adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

*Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 12 September 2012*

**If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting  
November 14th, 2012 at the Cozy Inn**

**CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 14th, 2012**

Some of you may remember David Gorrell. He gave an excellent presentation on repairing French and German clocks at our May meeting in 2008. At that time he was president of Chapter 1 in Philadelphia. Dave belongs to several local chapters of NAWCC. He is also FSW Certified Instructor by NAWCC. If you have heard of the Millersville Clock Shop, LLC then you are probably aware that Dave is an expert on repairing and restoring antique clocks. He has agreed to give a talk on Restoring and Refinishing Clock Cases at our next meeting. Some of the items involved in case restoration include; veneer repair, trim replacement and repair, re-assembly and finial replacement. If you have questions about case restoration, come prepared to ask Dave for his expert advice. 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](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. (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 \_\_\_\_\_

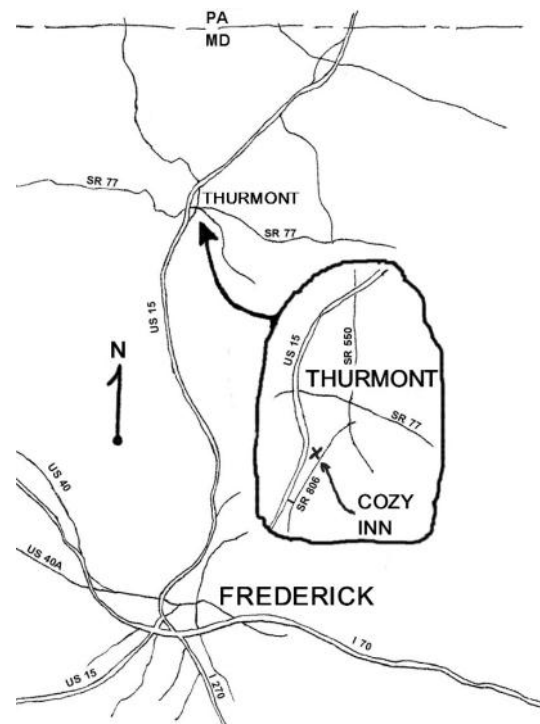
Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

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.*

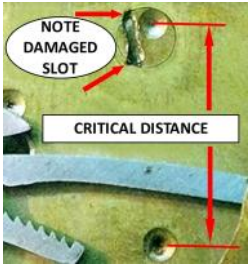
*Directions: Cozy Inn is in Thurmont, about 16 miles north of Frederick. Take Route 15N if coming from Frederick or 15 South if coming from PA. Take the Thurmont ramp to MD806 and go east on Thurmont Blvd (right if traveling north, left if traveling south) for about a quarter mile, then take a left on 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 II

The last Tick Tock Tech Tips introduced a Vienna Regulator that had several problems. I checked for damage and made sure all parts were present. I cleaned all parts. The escape wheel with several bent teeth was restored to a workable wheel. As I continued, bent teeth on one of the other wheels were straightened. I did this by placing a small brass tube snugly over the tooth and bent it back to its original form. Another problem involved some pins on the hammer pin-wheel were protruding through the reverse side of the gear. These pins were causing interference as it rotated. I was able to remove the excess portion of the pin from the backside of the wheel to restore needed clearance. Next I mounted and tested the movement on the test rack. I disabled the strike train by removing part of the linkage to the time train to allow a time train check without interference from the strike train. I am concerned more with the time train operation than accuracy at this point. It was obvious that the pallet was not meshing properly with the escape wheel. For a Graham deadbeat escapement, the dimensions related to the escape wheel and the pallets are particularly sensitive. One of its features is the ability of the pallets to slide along the escape wheel tooth on pendulum over swing without forcing the escape wheel backwards. Attention to drop-lock was next.



The movement has solid plates on, front and back, so the positions of the pallets relative to the teeth on the escape wheel were not easy to see. Visual observation was not clear enough to accurately determine the operation of the escape wheel and pallet assembly, but I concluded that to properly adjust the drop and lock

of the escapement I would have to adjust the spacing between the escape wheel and pallet arbors. It was obvious that someone had attempted this adjustment previously. It was badly damaged and required some cleanup before I could proceed. (See photo above) I cleaned up the slot and made a tool that would allow me to adjust it without further damage. I made the tool shown in the photograph below to fit tightly in the slot with its lever/handle coming out at right angles. This allowed me to place a machinist's clamp on the tool and the plate to preclude the bit from slipping out of the slot as I rotated it. I was able to rotate the adjustment slot (and the pivot hole spacing) in small controllable amounts. The depthing tool I have includes an attachment that allows the use of pallets with attached crutches (see Photo). I set the depthing tool to the initial spacing for the arbors, be they right or wrong, as a starting point.

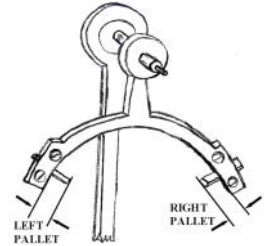


This measurement was 1.09725". With the pallets and escape wheel removed from the movement and installed in the depthing gauge it was much easier to analyze



and assess its operation. I was able to see that the individual pallets would need adjustment. They had been inverted at some time in the past because of wear on the face of the pallets. Looking at the pallet assembly in the figure below, I measured the length of each pallet in its initial configuration as shown. The measurements were:

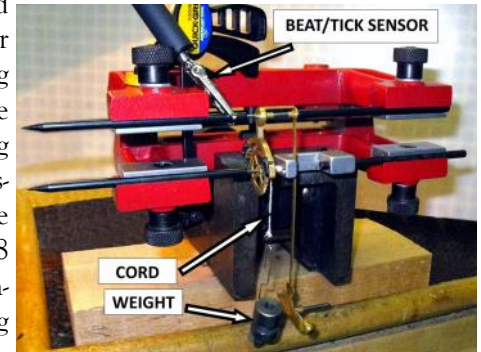
LEFT PALLET=0.1055" and  
RIGHT PALLET=0.1040".



Because of the curvature of the pallets, this might have worked but would likely have required adjustment in pendulum balance to account for it. Instead I adjusted the pallets to more of a balance.

LEFT PALLET=0.10022" and RIGHT PALLET=0.10025".

Also for the record I measured the spacing between the tips of the pallets to be 0.908" after adjustments. Now with the escapement in the depthing tool I could attach a string to the escape arbor and wind it around the arbor with a weight hanging on it. Thus I was able to adjust the depthing and operate the escapement in the depthing gauge for 8 minute intervals, limited only by the string length. (See Photo)



Satisfied that it was now operational, I measured the new spacing on the depthing to be 1.069". I adjusted the pivot spacing on the movement to that number and reinstalled the pallets and escape wheel. It worked. To verify the BPH rate I had made a tooth count on the wheels and calculated a beat rate of 4856.25 BPH or 0.741313 sec/beat. I mounted the movement with the new adjustments in the test rack with the pendulum attached. The strike was still disabled to allow checking the time independently. The movement time train worked with a healthy tick. I was able to adjust the balance and set the pendulum to give me approximately 4856 BPH and ran it for 24 hours with no stoppage. At this point I will continue this saga in the next newsletter. It is not over yet.

Al Bush 2012-06