



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

## Chapter 141 Officers

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*Lou Orsini*

### Vice President

*Bob Rothen*

### Treasurer

*Neil Amrine*

### Secretary

*Patsy Rothen*

### Newsletter Coordinator

*Al Bush*

### Registrar

*Joe Joyce*

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*George Hudson*

*Frank Goad*

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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.*

April / May – *No.2013-03*

## President's Message

Isn't this one of the best times of the year? The weather is improving almost daily but sure seems like we may skip spring; the cherry blossoms are in peak bloom; the days are getting longer; and it's a great sports time of the year with basketball and hockey about to start the playoffs, and the boys of summer kicking off another season. We also just enjoyed another great **Tri-Chapter joint meeting in Woodsboro** with plenty of buyers and sellers leaving happy. I particularly enjoy going to Woodsboro because of the opportunity to spend some time to catch up on the latest news with folks I usually only see once a year. I was pleased to see several Chapter 141 members attending although not as many as I would have liked. I strongly encourage everyone to take the opportunity every year to participate in this unique opportunity; it is well worth it.

Last month's meeting included another excellent program by **Bob Rothen** demonstrating the proper way to cut glass; a useful skill for anyone. As usual, Bob made it look so much easier than it is, as I proved by breaking vice cutting the glass when I tried to do it – twice! Luckily Bob brought plenty of glass. I am happy to say that I finally did get the proper touch and cut a piece somewhat straight. While Bob is always a willing and interesting presenter, he needs help, which brings me to my occasional **appeal for more volunteers to put on a program**. It's a nice opportunity to talk about something you love in a relaxed atmosphere, and you will learn more about your subject both in doing the research and during the presentation as others contribute to the discussion. So, pick a topic or object that appeals to you, and do your research. When you're ready, let Bob Rothen know and he'll put you on the schedule.

Our next meeting is fast approaching on Wednesday, May 8, and so I ask you to make reservations with Neil Amrine as soon as you



can, and absolutely no later than Sunday, May 5. As usual, that will be the last meeting until September and so I'm hoping for a great turnout. As previously announced, we are not going to try to have a picnic this year due to the lack of interest the past two years. However, I want to remind everyone that we have a new policy by which **any member can invite a non-member to our meeting for free**. That means that your adult guest (except immediate family members) does not have to pay for his or her meal. The idea is to recruit new chapter members, and as an added incentive, if your guest joins the NAWCC (or is already a member) and joins Chapter 141, then your next meal is free! So please invite a guest who might be interested in what we do to join in the fun and camaraderie, and hopefully recruit a new member.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan**, as well as other dangerous places throughout the world. 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, May 8th 2013 at The Cozy Inn***

# Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 Meeting, March 13, 2013

Freestate 141 held its regular meeting on 13 March 2013 and started with the usual Mart then meal. President Lou Orsini opened the meeting by having a drawing for a \$25.00 Gift Card from the Double D Auction Co. The firm had conducted the sale of Harry Walters' clocks and showed their appreciation for all the assistance provided by our chapter. There is one other gift card which will be distributed at a future meeting. President Orsini also reminded the members of the upcoming Woodsboro Regional on 6 April. The program at the meet will be presented by David Lindow who is a clockmaker from Lake Ariel, PA. Mr. Lindow began building rose engine lathes in 2006 and even though most interest has been in the ornamental turning world, engine turning (guilloche) became a passion of his after he bought and restored a 1913 Lienhard Model. Be sure to attend to hear "The Rest of the Story".



Speaker—Bob Rothen

Discussion was opened about 2 young men doing a project about the Art of Timekeeping and who were requesting funds to finance this endeavor. Many questions were asked such as why/how this project is important, etc. One of our members gave a synopsis of these types of projects after checking with the website [Kickstarter.com](http://Kickstarter.com) as to how the money is raised and disbursed. It was also discussed that there was no accounting for the funds which could be used for all things such as equipment costs, traveling expenses, interviews, and other expenses as they arose. Action was voted down.

Since no other Officers had any input, Bob Rothen gave a very informative program on glass cutting. Most people at one time or another need to cut a piece of glass to fix an object and he made it look easy. Once glass cools, it becomes solid though it is classified as a liquid. Procedures for cutting remain the same, regardless of the glass thickness. Most glass cutters have one end that has a 60 degree included angle cutter made of a carbide wheel. First, you must lubricate the wheel and cut prior to starting. You really need a professional cutter for cutting circles and make only one pass. When cutting glass, one continuous score is required. NEVER, NEVER go over the cut a second time. You also definitely need glass cutters pliers to remove excess glass. There are two types; one for clamping the glass forcing it to break along the cut and a second for nipping and trimming small bits from the cut piece. For rough edges, get a sharpening stone to smooth or you can use diamond file. You should probably cut off any excess while the score is fresh. For a circle, spread oil around where the circle line is to be made. Prior to removing the excess glass from around the circle, "draw" lines from the circle out to the edge. Several procedures were discussed to cut glass tubes as well as many videos on the internet. You can cut any line and glass doesn't care. After the talk, members came forward and tried their hand at cutting glass, then firmly but gently tapping away the excess. It was an interesting and educational program.

Meeting was adjourned with a reminder about the upcoming Woodsboro Meet.

*Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 13 March 2013*

## "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 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](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

**If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting**  
**May 8th, 2013 at the Cozy Inn**

**CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MAY 8th, 2013**

The speaker for our May 8th meeting will be Frank Blahut, a member of Chapter 11. Frank will be speaking on the subject of "Pendulum Wobble" and all the factors that contribute to this phenomenon. Frank will demonstrate this aberration with a working movement and clock stand. Should be a very interesting meeting dealing with what can sometimes be a frustrating problem. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

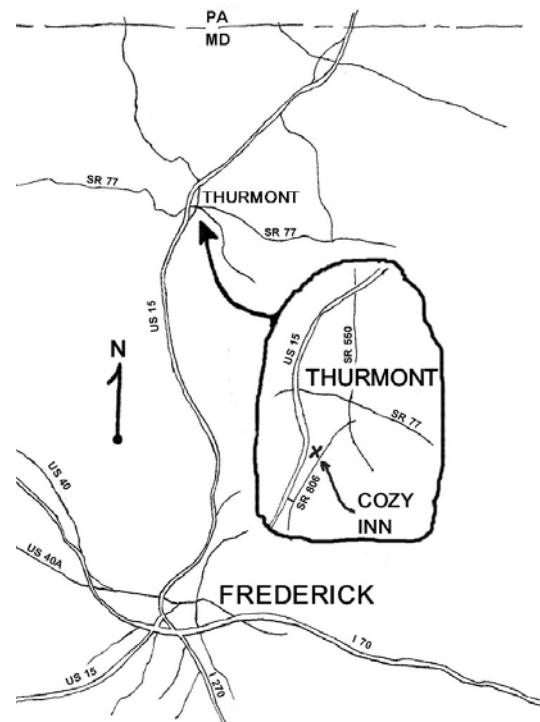
Number coming \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### AI Meets the Floating Balance

I have worked on a number of clocks, but not as many as several of you. I am always energized if I come upon a different approach to a clock. I had heard of and seen the floating balance in catalogs for use on Urgos movements, then a friend brought a mantle clock to me (Welby, Elgin National Watch Co., Germany shown at right) that had a broken strike mainspring. When I opened it I saw the escape mechanism and was impressed with it. Its consistency in time keeping was quite good. By chance I had gotten a shelf clock (Made in Germany for Seth Thomas Division, General Time Corporation) recently that had a similar escape mechanism in it (shown at left) but I hadn't paid much attention to it. Until this point, for some reason, I had supposed that the floating balance was used primarily in tall clocks. Looking at it and with no previous experience with it, I was at odds with how to adjust it. When I examined the second clock, it still had its original label inside explaining the process. As for its adjustment, I was not alone, several queries on the NAWCC

internet chat line also posed the question. For the record a floating balance is shown at right. An image looking from the bottom is shown just below it and you will note two fingers on the bottom end of the frame. These serve as the banking posts for the lever. The next photo shows how the lever rises vertically between the fingers. Note that this photo was taken with disassembled movement and the lever pallets and the escape wheel are separated but will come together when the arbors are correctly positioned in their plate bushings. The fork is bent at a right angle to engage the roller jewels on the balance wheel. The guard pin extends from the fork and bends down at a right angle to mesh with the safety roller but should never actually contact it. The safety roller can be seen in the enlarged, marked up photo, top of the next column. The safety roller is attached to the bottom tips of the roller pins. As seen in the photo, the balance wheel has no pivots but rides on a support wire A-A' that is secured at points B-B' after passing through the frame at the top and bottom. If this wire breaks or has broken, replacements can be obtained from parts distributors as Floating Balance Wires, sold in a pack of 25 stainless steel wires form .007" to 0.025" diameter. (current cost is around \$5.00). You will note from the photo the taunt wire goes up through a hollow tube that serves as the balance staff. A double helical spring is used in place of a normal hair spring. The double helical allow the

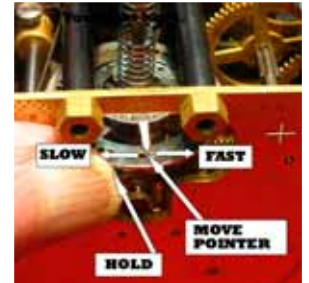
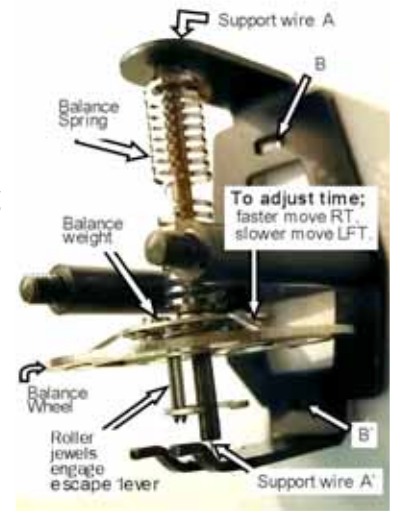


spring to rotate without imparting a vertical displacement. The length of the spring determines its suspension so the tube arbor is held without touching or rubbing the bracket at either end. The anchor point of the spring at the top determines the rotary position of the balance wheel to place it in beat. I found that the wheel must be relative close to level to function properly without rubbing. It does not have the attributes of a watch that is designed to operate in multiple positions. According to Michael P. Murray in his internet article, it needs no lubricating, can be cleaned by rinsing in a good quality solvent (99% isopropyl alcohol or one dip hairspring cleaner) and blown dry. He notes that adjustments to the mechanism are made at the factory and usually you should not make any alterations unless malfunctioning clearly indicates that action is required. By adjusting the pointer in the photo at right it moves weight W1 in or out diametrically to control the rate of spin of the balance wheel. It works as when you sit on a rotating stool with a book in each extended hand and pull your hands inward while spinning, the stool will speed up. It is a similar thing here. There is a limited adjustment for W1 so "punchout" weights W2 can be punched out to additionally alter the rate. The inner "punchouts" will give a smaller change.

**WARNING:** I wouldn't use this approach unless you are positive of what you are doing. Attempting to restore the "punchout" weights might be a little difficult. On Mike's website (<ftp://atmosman.com/pdf/hermle.pdf>) he lists the changes in time versus removing a "punchout" weight.



I did not find any direct replacements for this assembly at the suppliers but the two I checked did have a hairspring controlled version that should be a form fit. I believe Hermle uses this hairspring type in their movements. In this case the floating balance had no problem, but I did find it touchy to adjust. Meeting with the floating balance was an interesting exercise.



AI Bush 2013-03