



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

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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.*

February / March – *No.2013-02*

President's Message

Have you noticed how the winter weather seems to get weirder every year? One day it's 70 degrees and the next day we have snow! If nothing else, it keeps you guessing. And so that no one will have to guess about our next meeting, it is still scheduled for 13th of March, weather permitting, and it should be another good one. So what exactly does "weather permitting" mean? If the Frederick schools close that day due to inclement weather, we will cancel our meeting – otherwise it's a go. Hopefully no one will be confused by our policy. There certainly wasn't any confusion at our last meeting, which featured our annual "Show & Tell" presentations, which once again were exceptional. We heard from nine members on a variety of subjects, all of which were excellent, but I only had three prizes to give out, which went to **Ray Snouffer, Frank Goad and Alex Snouffer**. You'll find more details in the meeting minutes.

Hopefully everyone (besides me) who wanted to go to the auction of longtime member **Harry Walters'** clock collection was able to make it. I understand that it was a great success with good prices for a superb collection of quality clocks. We all owe a round of applause in thanks to **Bob Rothen**, assisted by **George Tresansky, Joe Abrams** and me, who spent countless hours working with Harry's lawyer and the auction company to ensure that his 240 clocks were properly inventoried, cataloged, packed and set up at the auction site. Bob also provided expert advice to the auctioneer and answered questions from potential bidders in the days leading up to the auction. This is one of the unofficial benefits of membership in Chapter 141 – part of our camaraderie to help members in need. All of the work was done on a volunteer basis

for the benefit of the member thanks to other's generosity.

To encourage greater meeting participation, I am instituting a **new policy** effective at the next meeting. **Any guest sponsored by a member will be free** (Chapter will pick up the tab for the guest). This does not apply for immediate family members (spouse and children), but could be for others such as siblings. If your guest becomes a member, then your meal will be free too. You may only use this once for each guest, but there are no limits to the number of different guests you can invite for free. So, let's beat the bushes and recruit some new members!

Please take note of the flyer in this newsletter for our upcoming annual **Joint Chapters 11, 12 and 141 Meeting and Mart in Woodsboro** on Saturday, April 6. It continues to be a wonderful venue for both buyers and sellers, and I encourage everyone to attend.

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, March 13th, 2013 at The Cozy Inn

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 Meeting, January 9, 2013

President Lou Orsini called the meeting to order after the conclusion of the mart and meal. Vice President Robert Rothen informed the members of a large clock sale by member, Harry Walters on 2 February 2013. Several individual members discussed various items they also had for sale.

For Show and Tell:

George Hudson - Christiaane Huygens (1629-1695) invented the "endless rope" used to drive clock works. George demonstrated how you get the right length of synthetic rope then whip ends of rope using wire to hold tightly. Cut off the ends as close as possible to the wire. Heat a knife red hot, then hold both ends of rope together and touch with knife until melted/fused. Let cool then remove wire.

Tom Mostyn - Brought 2 clocks he purchased in Canada which were similar. One was originally pink. The other was known as "Mostyn's Folly" and looked like someone had cut off the top but it was later realized it was original. Marked Model #61. Tom also brought a Medication Reminder Clock manufactured by Darche in 1910. Considered very rare because it didn't catch on. Pins were available to put in the dial surround to mark the time you wanted to be reminded of something (taking your medicine?) Darche Company was started in 1880 by three brothers and was known as the Darche Electric Alarm Clock Co. From 1906 to 1929, the company was run by the sister until the depression forced closure.

Frank Goad - Brought 2 watches - 19 jewel 16 size Ball Waltham. The Railroad Brotherhood Ball watch dates to 1901. The Dial was marked "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers" with a gold medallion having BLE on it. BLE was also marked on the movement. Purchased on EBay from a retired Santa Fe Engineer. Part of dial had problems which needed to be repaired. Frank used white putty to fix the crack then covered with acrylic gloss white paint. Originally in standard case, but he finally found a Ball case with a junk movement in it so he exchanged movements. He also had a Rockford 1911, 21 jewel watch whose dial also needed repair including needing lines and half numbers. He made invisible repairs using miniature model railroad decals, even using part of letter "c" to fix a number 3.

Mac Mc Lean - Presented a regular black/white dial alarm clock with repeater feature. Mac then showed a Sharp Alarm Clock, but with the bells on the outside. It was called a "Neva Late Alarm Clock" to always get you up on time. Mac then showed an Apollo Pocket Watch Alarm, 7 jewel,

with luminous dial.

Wheeler Green - Brought in steel brake line material and showed how it was the perfect size to make a draw bar for 8 mm collets. Also how to re purpose an IC Chip extractor tool to remove hands.

Roy Snouffer - Displayed an 8 day tall clock probably made between 1780 - 1800, It is a 4 train musical movement with various unusual features.

It makes 1 revolution 4 times a day and plays 7 tunes. It originally automatically changed each day. It is now set to go off each hour but can be turned off if desired.

Alex Snouffer - Brought an early fusee, quarter repeater which is Austrian. It's in a Carl Wagner Silver Case with a long bow. A watch just like this resides in a Museum. Back plate has dust cover covered with precious jewels (It's beautiful).

Bob Rothen - Showed/demonstrated a jig used to hold clock wheels accurately for expert drilling of holes for new pivots with a portable drill or drill press.

Dan Weber - Showed pictures of a Lemuel Curtis (1790 - 1857) Girandole clock, coming up for auction at Christies. Original Curtis, with correct provenance, Expected to sell for \$60K to \$90K. Sold for \$578,000. Dan unfortunately was not the winner.

Prizes for show and tell awarded to: **1st place** - Roy Snouffer, received a "Melting Clock", **2nd Place** - Frank Goad won a "cuckoo Clock", **3rd Place** - Alex Snouffer awarded Lighthouse with Clock.

All entrees were most interesting and educational.

Patsy Rothen (Secretary) 12 September 2012



Winners pictured are left to right: Frank Goad, 2nd; Alex Snouffer, 3rd; Roy Snouffer, 1st place.

"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 (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

March 13th, 2013 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MARCH 13th, 2013

The program for our next meeting will be "Glass Cutting For the Watch and Clock Repairer." This is a subject not often broached in horology, but one that every repairer or collector will have to deal with at some time or another. I will be demonstrating the techniques and problems associated with this practical aspect of working with clocks and watches.

Hands on participation will be encouraged, but please bring your safety glasses if you want to join in. 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 _____

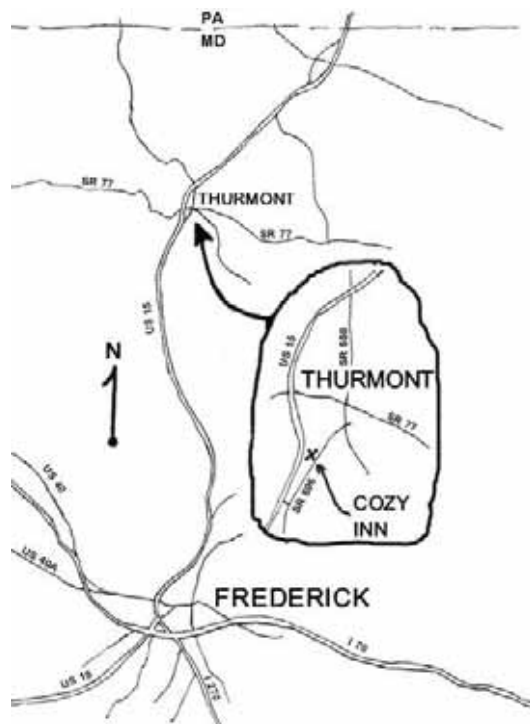
Guest Names _____

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

Mainsprings and Drums

I have been working on a clock in which the time train is working but the strike is inoperative. The movement appears to be in reasonably good shape but will be cleaned and oiled. The spring for the strike train is broken and must be replaced. In a previous article I addressed the letting down of mainsprings. To disassemble the movement the time train mainspring must be let down to remove the power. The strike spring is broken and has no power so it can be removed as is. I'll not address the details of disassembly but once the time and strike barrel assemblies are removed from the movement we need to mark the position of the cap plates on the mainspring and strike spring drums. This allows us to reassemble the caps so the arbors have proper alignment and centering. We now can examine the condition of the springs. Both springs will need to be removed.



At this point I caution you about the energy stored in the springs even though they are "let down". When they are let down they are still constrained within the drum and when removed from the drum will expand to a much larger diameter. When working with springs of this type which do have considerable energy, even when broken, I wear a pair of leather working gloves. They have a reasonable thickness which can protect fingers and hands from injury. To really be cautious one should wear safety glasses or a face shield since powerful clock springs pose a hazard to the face and eyes. I would also remind you at this point that working springs should not be removed by grasping the center most portion of the spring and pulling it out "cone wise" from the drum. See photo of a "coned" spring. Removal this way may put a bend or set in the spring and cause it to rub against the end of the drum producing unwanted



friction. In the case of the broken spring the technique can be used since the spring will be discarded. The good time train spring should be removed from the drum using a spring removal tool. One of these tools for use on clocks is shown in the adjacent photo. Since a similar procedure would be used when working on mainsprings for watches there are spring removal tools for use with the watches too (see adjacent photograph). While the mainsprings for watches are smaller and more delicate they too are susceptible to conning effect if that spring is pulled out of the barrel by grasping the innermost part of the spring.



With the broken spring removed from the barrel, determine the size of the broken spring, thickness, width and length. It is a relatively simple matter to measure the width and thickness. It is a little trickier to measure its length. To do so use a length

of small gauge bare copper wire, hooking it into the hole in the outer end of the spring and wrapping it around the leaves of the spring all of the way to the broken spot on the innermost part of the spring. Then measure the length of the small broken portion of the spring and add the measurements of the wire to get the required length for the new spring. The same technique could be used for a broken watch spring. However they are not as strong as the clock spring and one may be able to actually stretch them out along a calibrated ruler. These old spring measurements tell us the size to order for a new spring. We still need to consider the old spring might not be original nor of the correct size. Since the spring goes into a drum, it limits the space allowed for the spring to uncoil and we should verify it will fit correctly. Measure the barrel diameter, the barrel width and the diameter of the arbor and calculate the length of a spring the drum can support.

There is an excellent article on clock mainsprings (and much more) on the Internet at Mark Headrick's Horology Page, at <http://www.abbeyclock.com/usmsp.html>. Abbey Clock Clinic is located in Austin, TX. I recommend you visit that web site since I cannot begin to cover this topic in the detail presented there including the availability of a download of Excel program for calculating the size of the spring that can be used in the drum (the formula is $L=(\pi/2T)(Rb^2-Ra^2)$ where L is the length, T is the thickness, Ra is the arbor radius and Rb is the barrel inside radius). He also points out that the spring power is the cube of the thickness, i.e. if you double the spring thickness the strength is 8 times greater. The thickness of the spring will determine how many coils of the spring can fit into the barrel. The number of coils determines how many turns it takes to wind (unwind) the spring. This in turn via the tooth count of the drum wheel and wheels to the minute arbor will define how many hours the movement will run on one winding. A similar calculation can be made for the strike train. This is an important factor. To make a long story short, I downloaded the Excel program and calculated how long a spring with the thickness of the old spring there would be room for. I found the result to be 66". The old spring measured 48.5" in length. So there was some reserve space available for a longer spring. A spring exactly matching the old spring was not available and the spring I had ordered earlier, before the calculation, was 0.012" thick while the old one was 0.0125". The Excel program showed the new spring would be 5% weaker than the old one. A stronger spring would be better. I found a used spring in my old parts box that was 0.013" thick and 51" long. This spring would likely be 5% stronger than the original. Per the calculation there is room in the drum for the extra length. Be aware that the thickness of a spring can vary along its length as can its temper. Both elements can affect the spring's strength. For this reason, I consider the calculation to be an approximation.

I cleaned and oiled and assembled all parts and checked the timing and run times over two extensive test runs to establish that both the time and strike would function in excess of the 8 day rating of the clock. Operation was robust and quite adequate.

AI Bush 2013-02

ANNUAL SPRING JOINT MEETING

MARYLAND CHAPTER 11
WASHINGTON CHAPTER 12 FREE STATE CHAPTER 141
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Saturday, April 6, 2013

WOODSBORO, MD - VFD COMMUNITY HALL

10307 COPPERMINE RD. ZIP 21798

TEN MINUTES NORTH OF FREDERICK



COMBINED MEETING
THREE CHAPTERS
8:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
SPEAKERS AT 11 A.M.
60 MART TABLE
SPACES AVAILABLE

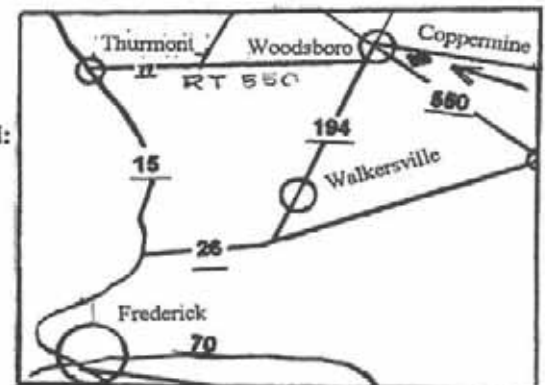


SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE HARRY LEE. HIS PROGRAM WILL BE: MAKING WOOD CLOCK MOVEMENTS.

Harry makes wooden clocks with readily available woodworking tools that incorporate interchangeable parts and are accurate to 30 seconds a week.

Directions to Woodsboro Vol. Fire Department Community Service Hall:

- * From the East: I-70W to US Rt. 15 North, to US Rt. 26 East to St. Rt. 194 North to Coppermine Road. Turn right 1/2 mile for VFD Community Service Hall on the right.
- From the South: US Rt. 15 North or I-270 North to St. Rt. 26 and then follow above.
- * From the West: Take I-70 East to US Rt. 15 North and then follow directions above.
- * From the North: US Rt. 15 South to Thurmont, then St. Rt. 77 East through Thurmont to St. Rt. 550 East to Woodsboro. Turn right on St. Rt. 194. Turn left 1/2 mile to the VFD Community Service Hall, 10307 Coppermine Road.



RESERVATION FOR JOINT MEETING & MART APRIL 6, 2013

Name _____ NAWCC# _____
Phone _____ (Must show card)
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Spouse (Free) _____ Guest (Name) _____
Children under 14 (Free) _____

Make Checks Payable to:
NAWCC Chapter 11

Mail to:
Bill Miller
4301 Meadowcliff Rd.
Glen Arm, MD 21057
410-592-7013

Guests must be accompanied by NAWCC member
and must follow NAWCC guidelines.

Meeting & Mart Pre-Registration	_____ @ 8.00	\$ _____
Admission to Meeting & Mart at the door	_____ @ 10.00	\$ _____
Mart Table	_____ @ 15.00	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

Enter quick and easy

Badges will be mailed if
SASE is received by:

MARCH 20, 2013

IMPORTANT: The NAWCC, its officers, and members, including officers of the Host Chapters, the Chairpersons, and members of the Joint Meeting committee disclaim responsibility, and for acts by others, for errors, emissions, neglect, inconvenience, loss, or accident caused by events surrounding or related to activities of the Joint Meeting.