



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

Chapter 141

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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.

June / July – No.2013-04

President's Message

As you know, our next meeting isn't until September, and so this Newsletter is to keep in touch over the summer break. I trust everyone is enjoying some time off this summer, and hope that you can spend time with family and friends and recharge batteries in the coming months. We had a nice turnout at our May meeting, which featured a nice presentation by **Frank Blahut** on the effects, causes and fixes for pendulum wobble. It was an informative presentation with quite a bit of discussion among members, helping to understand some of the mysteries of clock repair.

You will notice a couple of **changes in this Newsletter**, which we are trying out this year. First, the Newsletter is in color. That's the same as last time, except now we are paying a little extra for the improvement. We discussed the advantages of going to color at the last meeting, and the extra clarity seems to be worth the cost. The second change is that we plan to offer all dues-paying members free classified advertisements (horological items for sale or looking to buy); the guidelines and rules for placing ads. We will try this to see if there is sufficient interest in making it a regular feature. This addition also increases the cost of printing and distributing the Newsletter. We will keep you informed regarding how this goes.

As a reminder, the new fiscal year starts on July 1st, and **Neil Amrine** will be looking for your **dues payment**. If you did not pay him at the last meeting, please take a minute to mail him a check. Dues remain at just \$8.00 a year. Our goal is 100% renewal, and we are already off to a good start!

With the increased costs of the Newsletter, we can no longer afford to send the Newsletter to members who have not been paying their dues. Hence, **if you did not pay dues for the current year, and do not renew for this year, this will be the last Newsletter you receive**. I hope we will not have to drop anyone, so please send in your dues check. If you are unsure if you have paid or not, please contact Neil to find out.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in so many different roles in Afghanistan**, and other dangerous places throughout the world. We owe them our eternal gratitude for protecting us and our way of life – just as we owe the same to all who served, particularly in time of war. 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, September 11th 2013 at The Cozy Inn

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 Meeting, May 8, 2013

Freestate 141 held its regular meeting on 9 May 2013. The meeting started with the usual mart followed by an excellent meal. President Orsini called the meeting to order. It was noted that our 141 Newsletter was accidentally printed in color but it was very nice. It was put to a vote and passed that we would continue to have it printed in color each month for an additional \$11.00.

New member Curtis Estes from Walkersville was introduced. He works on clocks and sometimes needs help with setting them up. He was accompanied by his friend Rhonda. We welcome them to our club.

It was also brought to our attention an article in the Wall Street Journal about the "Quirky Time guy". Very interesting.

Bob Rothen, Vice President asked for the members to forward him ideas for upcoming meetings. Neil Amrine suggested one topic should be Banjo Clocks with Dan Weber as the speaker.

Speaker for the meeting was **Frank Glahut** on "Pendulum Wobble." Frank is active in many horological circles such as Chapter 11 in Baltimore and the Horological Association of Maryland.

Pendulum Wobble causes clocks not to work correctly or keep good time. This was a problem for kitchen clocks for many years. If the bob is highly polished and you can



see yourself in it, it can be disturbing if there is a wobble. Pendulum wobble is caused by the bob not being parallel to its travel route. There can be many reasons for this wobble - weak springs, air resistance, not on straight, etc. The post on top should be vertical and should have a gap the width of a sheet of paper so it has room to move. You need to

make sure the suspension spring has no cracks and isn't broken. Sometimes the spring may have a twist. You may need a wider spring to give more strength. Leader hooks onto suspension spring then down to the hook on the pendulum. When the pendulum bob hooks to the top, it must be hooked on straight. The down stick on the bob must also be straight and tight on the bob.

Mr. Glahut answered many questions, and his presentation was interesting and informative.

The meeting was dismissed at the end of the presentation.

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, or call me at 301-229-2587 if you have questions. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Cozy's in September. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the meeting reservations. We will 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 Neil 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 11th, 2013 at the Cozy Inn

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 11th, 2013

The program for the September meeting will be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter (August/September). We will look forward to seeing everyone then. Have a happy summer.

—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 _____

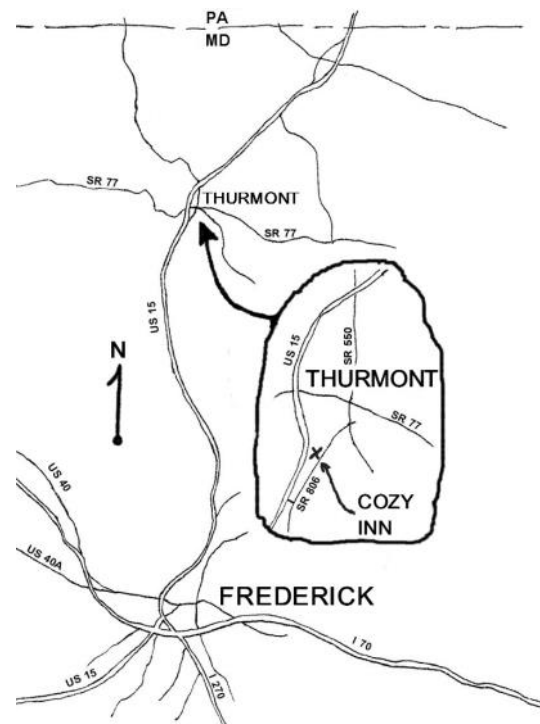
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

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 IV

Previously *Tick Tock Tech Tips* introduced a Vienna Regulator with several problems. I cleaned and restored the parts as best I could and with the strike linkage disconnected to isolate the time train from the strike I succeeded in getting the time train working reliably with only half the normal weight being applied to the time train. When the time and strike trains are joined thru the time strike lever, the problems showed immediately and were discussed in the Tips **Part III**.

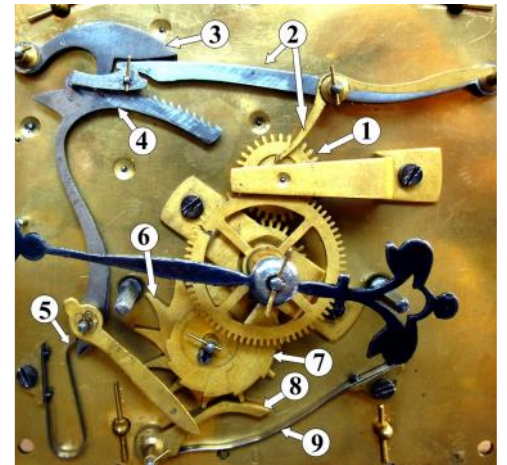
There was definitely a synchronizing problem with the warning flag which I was able to correct. The understanding of the strike train is essential to analyzing problems with this type of movement. While I have previously worked on a couple of these VR movements, I was delighted that the NAWCC decided to sponsor an exploratory Webinar by **Stephen Nelson** on servicing a 3 weight Vienna Regulator.

At this point I should say a few points about the Webinar. For those of you who are using computers on the Internet this technique can provide a great learning tool. I have previously viewed many of the tapes and DVDs provided by the National Library many of which are now available to members via the Internet from our Library. Also numerous people involved with watches and clocks have Web sites where they have videos that you can watch. The Webinar has the advantage that it is live and you can type in questions you may have and the speaker can respond during the talk. Stephen is pioneering in the technique for the NAWCC and will hopefully be presenting future Webinars on horological subjects. It takes a good amount of preparation, planning and effort to produce one of these Webinars and if you have an opportunity to sign up for one of them, I highly recommend it. Stephen did a very good job even though he had to develop techniques and work out bugs in the process as he went. I commend him. He conducted 5 sessions, first taking apart a Vienna Regulator and then using the last 4 to reassemble, oil, adjust, etc. the movement explaining important points as he proceeded. Each Webinar lasted about 1 hour and a half. The last half was spent mostly answering questions although he did answer numerous questions as he proceeded. I am sure there will be more Webinars in the future, so stay tuned and participate.

There were a couple of points that he drove home and which I applied to solve the problems with the VR I am currently working on. First was the problem of the warning flag locking up against the strike lever warning pin. This was in part because the "at rest" position of the flag was not in proper relation to the lifting pins for the strike hammer on the hammer pin wheel. Another factor that can affect the relationship of the flag to the warning pin is the speed with which the fan rotates. If it is loose on the arbor and the arbor

spins too fast or if there is friction that causes it to drag, the spin up time for it to rotate around and stop against the warning pin will vary. In this case the warning pin was perhaps slow in lifting up to the position where it needed to be to intercept and stop the warning flag from rotating further. The hammer pin wheel was initially in a position to partially lift the hammer which transmitted pressure back through the trip lever to the time train and slowed it down until the warning flag spun around and jammed the trip lever stopping the time train. Stephen confirmed my feeling that one must synchronize this by trial and error. I also bent the warning pin up slightly to better catch the spinning warning flag. Now it ran much longer but still would hang up occasionally.

One of the things Stephen emphasized was the need to have lever contact surfaces smooth and free of any worn grooves. I observed no grooves but went back and polished all of the contact points on the levers including the teeth on the hour rack, # 4, in the photo, and polished the pawl on lever #3 so it



could be lifted easily out of the rack. I adjusted spring #5 to reduce tension on the rack. This helped and I got no more hang ups on the half hour. It still would sometimes hang up on the hour strike. I found this was related to star wheel (#6) which is moved forward by a pin on a wheel of the minute arbor. Lever #8 is used to make sure the star wheel has moved one complete step each time. The star wheel is coupled directly to the snail (#7) that determines the number of strikes for each strike sequence. Spring (#9) applies pressure to the lever (#8) to force it between the star points for the proper positioning of the snail. If too much force is applied by this spring, it makes it more difficult for the minute wheel pin to push the star to its next position. On this movement the two springs are secured by a single screw in the clamps that hold them. By loosening the screws I can rotate the clamp for the adjustment. On other VRs I have, the clamps are pinned and the spring must be bent to adjust it. Finally after a few attempts I achieved a balance that provided enough tension but not enough to place an unacceptable load on the time train. With these adjustments completed the movement ran on the test rack in excess of 8 days without stoppage and while I did not fine tune the beat rate, it appeared to be satisfactory on the MicroSet chart. It only remains to install the movement back into the case and check for minor adjustments.

Al Bush 2013-04

Personal Postings For Chapter 141 Members

INTRODUCTION: This page is for Chapter 141 members to post horological questions, ads, or notices at no charge. Initially this will be a trial run to test member's response, monitor the Chapter's costs for the postings, the work involved in managing the effort and the problems in collecting the data and formatting it for the newsletter. After a trial period, the effort and response will be reviewed and modified, improved or discontinued as the results indicate. The Newsletter Advertising Policy has been defined and will be on file with the Chapter 141 records for viewing. This policy will be amended and updated as improvements and changes are dictated. It is shown below. Any future changes will be posted here as well. I suggest you keep a copy of this issue for your reference. The same is true for any updates published.

For the service to work and be effective, people submitting information for posting will need to provide the information in a form that can easily be conveyed to NAWCC Headquarters for editing, printing, and distribution. It is not intended that any editing will be required for information you submit. The information should be submitted in Microsoft WORD file format as a .doc or .docx file by email to albushWLIVE@hotmail.com. This email address will be checked for input when the newsletter is prepared to send to press. If you do not have access to a computer, I suggest you contact a friend and get them to prepare the posting for you. I have included some samples of postings to give you an idea of what can be posted in a 2x3½" space. Effort will be made to maintain your posting, wording and presentation as you have submitted it.

The Newsletter Advertising Policy as it currently stands is as follows:

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING POLICY

- 1) Each ad consists of one space approximately 3½ by 2 inches.
- 2) Ads must be in the hands of the Newsletter Coordinator in time to go to press to meet the schedule for printing the related issue. (This is normally a month and one week and two days before the next meeting.)
- 3) If the Newsletter allotted ad space is filled to capacity, the ad may be held over until the following issue of the Newsletter or canceled if the contributor wishes.
- 5) If an ad does not arrive in time to meet the deadline or does not meet the format requirements it may be refused.
- 4) The Chapter reserves the right to refuse to publish any ad for any reason; including any ad it feels is inappropriate.
- 5) Any ads submitted for publication must be with the caveat that the Chapter and its representatives do not endorse its contents. Neither are they to be held responsible for the content of the ads. The Chapter, its representatives and the Newsletter assumes no responsibility for any resulting transactions or actions related to any transactions. All dealings are strictly between the buyer and seller and do not involve the Chapter or its representatives.
- 6) Ads may be a posting requesting help in horological related questions or problems as well as the offer to sell, trade or buy horological items.
- 7) Company or Business ads will not be accepted for publication. All ads are to be of a personal nature and of horological interests.
- 8) At times approved official notices may be posted in this area of the Newsletter.
- 9) Printable photos and text will be accepted as long as it is formatted and contained within the 3½ by 2 inch space. Any text with photos should include a separate photo in .jpg format. Quality of the ad will depend on the quality of the copy received. Material for posting must be in the form of a .doc or .jpg computer formatted file. (A clean printed and formatted hardcopy with a 3½ by 2 ratio format that can be scanned and used directly without editing may be used if it only requires scanning.)
- 10) You must be a member of NAWCC Chapter 141 in good standing to qualify for posting an ad in the Newsletter.

Personal Postings For Chapter 141 Members

SAMPLE POSTING -----

For sale: Clock in excellent condition, recently serviced, cleaned and oiled. Clock is an early 1900s 8 day wall clock with time and strike.

Case is Walnut , both movement and case appear to be original. Contact John Doe at Phone 000-000-0000 or on the internet at jdoe@somewhere.net. Asking \$350. Willing to talk. John Doe.



2013 NAWCC WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE-----

- Servicing a Pocket Watch for the Beginner II: June 17-19 (WS-201) Monday-Wednesday
- Build a Clock: Design and Construction I: July 11-12 (WS-190) Thursday-Friday
- Cuckoo Clock Repair: July 20-21 (WS-601) Saturday-Sunday
- Introduction to Machine Tools and Materials: July 22-26 (WS-204) Monday-Friday

These are just some of the workshops available. Check the website for more and for information to participate.

SPECIAL ANOUNCEMENT -----

There will be no meeting for the month of JULY. Have a nice summer. Meetings will resume in SEPTEMBER. Look forward to seeing everyone at Cozy's Restaurant at our usual time. Bob will have an excellent program planned for your enjoyment.

BEST WISHES FOR A PLEASANT SUMMER from all of your Chapter 141 Officers.

SAMPLE POSTING -----

For sale: Clock in excellent condition, recently serviced, cleaned and oiled. Clock is an Mid 1800s "Chess" clock with time only. Case is Walnut , both movement and case appear to be original. Contact John Doe at Phone 000-000-0000 or on the internet at jdoe@somewhere.net. Price negotiable. Willing to talk. John Doe.



SAMPLE POSTING -----

Looking for information on replacing floating balance in Hemile tall clock movement. Does anyone know where I can purchase a replacement floating balance assembly. Those I have found so far are standard balance wheel assemblies designed to fit in the movement in place of the floating balance. Contact Bill Doe at Phone 000-000-0000 or internet at billd@somewhere.net . Thanks. Bill Doe.

SAMPLE POSTING -----

I have several Elgin watches in my collection, some of which are duplicates that I am willing to part with. If you are looking for a particular Elgin watch, contact me and I can provide you information on those I have for sale. They are mostly Railroad watches. My Phone number is 000-000-0000 or you can contact me by email at WSell@myemailservice.com and we can arrange a showing. Will Sell, Jr.

SAMPLE POSTING -----

Have your ad or posting show up on this page. If you have a horological question or problem that someone in the Chapter can help you with, here is a place you can ask. Often times others may have a question on the same subject.

SAMPLE POSTING -----

Out VP, Bob Rothen, is always looking for subjects for speakers to present at our meetings. If you would like a presentation on a subject let him know. Better yet if there is a subject you would be willing to talk on to the Group we all would welcome your efforts. Let Bob know.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM

The National Watch & Clock Museum plans several special events each year. Events range from wine and beer tastings, fund raising events, special tours for NAWCC Members and Friends of the Museum, special educational events, and much more.

SPECIAL ANOUNCEMENT -----

NAWCC's Online Watch Magazine

WATCHDIG.ORG

Today's Watch News for the Serious Collector

Check out NAWCC's Watch Magazine site on the NAWCC web site for interesting information for watch collectors. Have you checked in lately? What are you missing?