



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.

Newsletter questions or feedback should be addressed to Al

Bush at: [ag-](mailto:ag-bush172@verizon.net)

bush172@verizon.net

or 410-531-5307.

August / September – No. 2014-05

President's Message

Welcome back from our summer break! Hard to believe that it's nearly September and time for all good children to return to school to give their poor parents a break. But then again, you know that fall can't be too far away when they've already started playing football even though we're barely into the second half of the baseball season. I hope everyone got the chance to take some vacation and recharge batteries - I'm not talking about you retired guys who are always on vacation, even as you claim to be busier than when you were working. Taking time off is important for our mental health. It's also an excuse to delve a bit deeper into our clock and watch passions without any guilt.

As announced in our last newsletter, the **Cozy Restaurant has closed her doors**, and we now have a new meeting location at the nearby **Mountain Gate Restaurant**, which is nearly next door to Cozy. I've checked out their buffet line, and I think you'll be pleased with the choices; they are a bit different from Cozy, but look pretty good. Unfortunately, due to their smaller size, we could not meet on the same night as the Lion's Club, and so had to **change our meeting date to the second Thursday of every other month** vice Wednesday. Hence, **our next meeting will be at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, MD on Thursday, September 11.** The dates for the next year are all on Thursdays as well: November 13, January 8, March 12 and May 14. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there.

Let me take this opportunity to remind everyone of a couple of things. First, we are

in a new fiscal year (started July 1st), so **please pay your annual dues to Neil Amrine** if you have not already done so. Dues are still just \$8/year, which essentially covers our normal administrative expenses. Second, I encourage everyone to **bring a friend, colleague, neighbor or anyone else who may have an interest in clocks or watches.** You can invite one guest to every meeting, and their meal is free. And if they join the Chapter, your next meal is free as well! And third, **Bob Rothen is anxious for volunteers to either put on a program**, or connect Bob with a program lead. Again, we offer a free meal to our presenter, whether they are a member or not, and you get the satisfaction of sharing your interests and expertise with all of us.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan**, and other dangerous places throughout the world. It seems to be an unfortunate circumstance that the world is becoming an increasingly dangerous place, and American service members and federal officials often find themselves in harm's way as they carry out their duties. These folks are today's patriots and heroes, and we are fortunate to have them in our service. Please look for opportunities to say thanks, and to make sure that our elected officials understand how important it is to support our troops, and that includes retaining their full benefits and cost of living raises. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home.

Lou Orsini, president

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 11th, 2014 at Mountain Gate Restaurant

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – July 9th, 2014

No meeting was held in July 2014. Minutes for September 11, 2014 will appear in the next newsletter. –AGB

WEBSITE NEWS BIT

From your webmaster, Alex Stouffer



Hi! My name is Alex Snouffer, and for those of you who do not know, I have volunteered to be our chapter's webmaster. Before I describe my visions for our website, let me first tell you about myself.

I am 17 years old and a senior at Williamsport High School near Hagerstown, MD. After graduation, I am hoping to attend George Washington University to study mechanical engineering with a focus in patent law. I started collecting watches eight years ago and mainly focus on railroad along with European complicated pocket watches. In addition to collecting watches, I also repair and make

watches. I use the term “make” loosely because I have just started building a copy of a George Daniel's tourbillon pocket watch, which I hope to have finished by the time that I finish college. As for our website, I am hoping to make our website a user-friendly site that can allow for different applications. Even though I have discussed these ideas with some of the other board members, I would like to leave the website applications completely up to the chapter. So at our next meeting, I will be there before the meeting taking any suggestions/wants, along with a brief overview of our website during the meeting itself. I am hoping that our website can become a much more productive and easy to use feature that connects the chapter in ways that a meeting does not allow. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, you can also send them to arsnouffer@gmail.com.

“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 Mountain Gate Restaurant 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 Amrine at Neil54@aol.com or 301-229-2587 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, 2014 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 11th, 2014

There was no meeting in July. We hope you had a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you Thursday, September 11th. News Flash! **Our September meeting will be on a THURSDAY at a new location.** (As some of you know, Cozy Restaurant has closed their door after all these years.)

Our program will feature a Show And Tell. Members and guests are encouraged to bring whatever horologically related item, project, horological anecdotes or idea they have to share with the membership. No matter how small an item or how trivial you may think your contribution is, I'm sure everyone will be interested and welcome the contribution. Past meetings have always offered up a wonderful variety of presentations that always surprise a delight. I know you all have something to bring to the meeting, so don't be shy, come prepared to share. Join the fun. I think you will find an easy and receptive audience. Plan on attending, we're looking forward to seeing you.

—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 _____

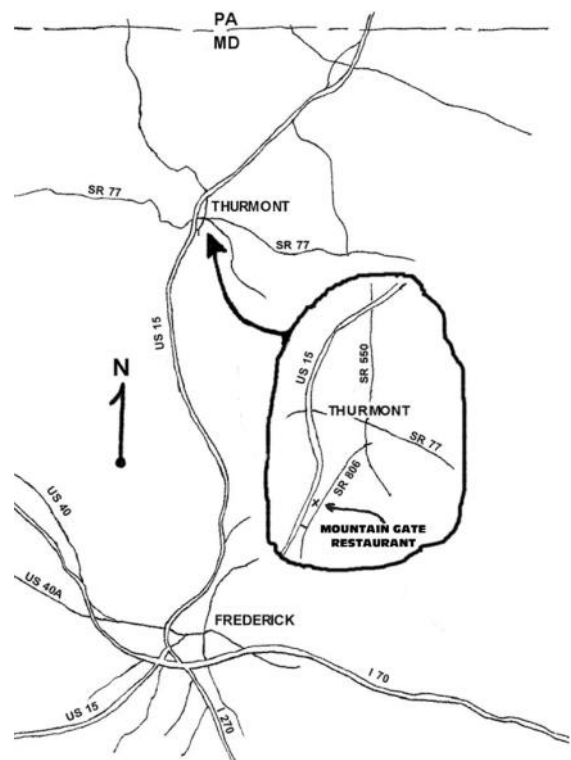
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

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: Mountain Gate Family Restaurant 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 600 ft. on the left. If you need additional directions, please call the Mountain Gate Restaurant at 301-271- 4373.



Horological Talk & Tips

More on Electrical Clocks

Today I would like to talk about a tip for repair of electric clocks. But I must caution you about and emphasize the safety factor. I pointed out in the 2013-05 issue of our newsletter, electricity can be lethal. If you are not sure or experienced ask someone to help you or take the clock to commercial repair shop. Keep in mind that it is the electrical current that shocks or kills the person. Currents above 0.2 amperes can cause severe burns and stop breathing but are survivable with proper attention. However, currents between 0.1 and 0.2 amperes are lethal. Below 0.1 amperes you may get a painful shock you'll likely recover. People have been electrocuted using ordinary house currents supplied by 110 volts or even 42 volts of DC current. So be cautious and don't take a chance. Now let me address the repair of an AC electric clock. A friend of mine brought me a banjo AC electric clock (*see Photo*) she said was not working. It was her elderly father's favorite clock and I agreed to look at it.



First I checked it for shorts. There were none, so I plugged it in. It was non-operative. The eagle on top had a broken wing, the side brass trim had a loose screw and there were old tape adhesive marks on the sides. It showed signs of its use. I addressed the case damage, replaced the eagle and removed the movement. I replaced the cord which was in very poor condition. The movement showed signs of wear and caked grease. It was sort of approaching a basket case. If it wasn't for the sentimental value most people would replace rather than restore it. Under the circumstance I agreed to do what I could with it.

The question was where to start. I removed the cord and movement and took care of the case first, then disassembled the movement. The photograph below shows the movement as a

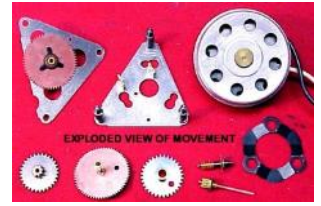


unit with the motor. I don't want to saturate the motor's electrical wiring with cleaning solution so I separated the movement gear train from the electrical motor proper and disassembled it. I cleaned the metal parts in the ultrasonic cleaner and cleaned the fiber gears by hand.

The photograph (below right) shows a side view of the gear train. Note the debris of dirt and metal particles accumulated on the plates. This is the result of improper or very long term use without attention to oiling. People normally don't seem to think that AC electric clocks need oil. After all, they are electric. On the other hand I have had people that have applied so much oil to an electric clock that it had accumulated in the bottom of the clock and there was a reservoir of oil accumulated between the dial plate and the crystal at 6:00 o'clock. NO, no, no, that's way too much oil. This movement's gear train also had caked grease/oil around the pivots.



The photo below right shows an exploded view. The train is on the left and the motor unit is in the upper right. I should caution you not to bend or distort the aluminum disk on the motor. It is an essential part of the motor and should freely rotate and not rub any other portion of the movement creating a drag on the motor. I hand cleaned the motor bearings where visible and lightly oiled them with synthetic Mobile 1 5W30. (Keep in mind while the motor doesn't get real hot it is a 2.5 watt device and will dissipate heat.) Also, while it might not be a problem other than a dust attractor, I find it is a good policy to keep the oil off/out of any motor coils. I use the synthetic Mobile 1 in this situation because it is designed to withstand the temperatures in automotive use. I use it in other mechanical movements as well for it works great as clock oil. Before I continue, I examine the gears in the time train section. The electric motor is synchronized to the 60 cycles of the AC power line which results in reasonably good time keeping. The motor shaft spins quite rapidly. When geared down to one revolution per hour and one per day it exerts a good bit of power which accounts for the wear that is visible on the worm gear and the metal particles on the plates. The worm gear sees some degree of rubbing or scraping on the teeth of the worm gear and this if not properly lubricated is a strong wear point. That is evident on this movement. See the photograph at right which shows how the teeth on one end have been worn down. The rest of the gears were usable after cleaning and with proper oiling. The best thing to do here is purchase a new



movement. The only one I could find at that time would not match the movement. My second choice, so as to not delay the repair with an extended search, was to use an equivalent gear from a movement in a clock of my own which gave me time to find a replacement. For my clock I decided to simply move the worm gear down on its shaft so it would mesh with the gear it was driving at a point near the end which had less wear. This worked great and I was able to restore my neighbor's clock and still keep my clock running. At some point I can get a new used worm gear for it or make one just to give me some practice in turning out a worm gear.

With the new used worm gear installed and the movements reassembled and oiled, I put everything back together and a bench test showed both clocks to be working well. I was able to return the now restored clock to my neighbor and she informed me that her dad was thoroughly enjoying the clock with a big thank you and a large smile on his face. She has since passed away and I believe her father has also. So far as I know he was able to enjoy it for the remainder of his life.

Al Bush 2014-05

Personal Postings For Chapter 141 Members

INTRODUCTION: This page is for Chapter 141 members to post horological questions, ads, or notices at no charge. The Newsletter Advertising Policy is repeated here for your convenience. It has been defined and will be on file with the Chapter 141 records for viewing. Updates will be posted from time to time as needed.

Members 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 seek their help to prepare and email the posting for you. Sample postings to give you an idea of what can be posted in a 2x3½" space were given in the June-July issue of this newsletter. Effort will be made to maintain your posting, wording and presentation as you have submitted it.

PERSONAL POSTINGS

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING OR HAVE SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS ?? ----- POST IT HERE !!!!!!!!!!!

MAKE NOTE OF:

CHANGE of TIME & LOCATION for the NEXT MEETING on THURSDAY, SEPTMBER 11, 2014 at the MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT in Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373.

Hope to see you all there! Have a great vacation.



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