



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

## Chapter 141 Officers

**President**  
Lou Orsini

**Vice President**  
Bob Rothen

**Treasurer**  
Neil Amrine

**Secretary**  
Patsy Rothen

**Newsletter Coordinator**  
Al Bush

**Webmaster**  
Alex Snouffer

**Board of Directors**  
George Hudson  
Frank Goad  
George Tresansky

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

[oh2batc@verizon.net](mailto:oh2batc@verizon.net)  
or 703-352-7260.

Newsletter questions or feedback  
should be addressed to Al Bush at:  
[agbush172@verizon.net](mailto:agbush172@verizon.net)  
or 410-531-5307.

Feedback for the Web Site should be  
addressed to Alex Snouffer at:  
[arsnouffer@gmail.com](mailto:arsnouffer@gmail.com)

October / November — No.2014-06

## President's Message

Wow, hard to believe it's autumn already, but ain't this a great time of the year! The leaves are turning into a brilliant mix of colors (we won't talk about all the raking that will need to be done); the weather has moderated with (at least right now) for warm days and cool night; and the sports world is overlapping with baseball playoffs, football in full swing, and hockey and basketball just starting - it's hard to decide what to watch. By the time we meet, Halloween will be in our rear view mirror and Thanksgiving nearly upon us; can Christmas be far behind? And if all of that isn't enough to get you psyched up, our next meeting should do just that.

We had our first meeting in our new venue at **Mountain Gate Restaurant**, which from everything I heard went very well including another outstanding "Show & Tell" session; I'm just sorry I couldn't be there, but work travel got in the way again. I really appreciate **Bob Rothen** standing in for me again. Bob offered to introduce me to everyone if I missed another meeting this year since I've missed two of the last three; hopefully that won't be necessary. I hope all who participated in last month's meeting enjoyed it just as much as before, and that you will spread the word. **Our next meeting again will be at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, MD on Thursday, November 13.** The dates for the next year are all on Thursdays as well: January 8, March 12 and May 14.

We recently took an inventory of those who are in arrears for at least two years in their annual dues, and **regrettably removed 6 members from our roster** leaving us with 49 members. Our current roster includes some

members who have not yet paid their dues for this year or last year, and we are making a concerted effort to bring them into good standing before terminating their membership. Once membership is terminated, former members will not receive our Newsletter or any of the separate e-mails of general interest I send out. If you know of any former members who are still interested in clocks and watches, please invite them back. It is painful to remove folks from our mailing lists, but it is only fair; let's all make an effort to retain our members, and equally important, to recruit new ones. Please **bring a friend, colleague, neighbor or anyone else who may have an interest in clocks or watches** to the next meeting. 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!

Finally, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan, the Middle East, West Africa**, and other dangerous places in the world. Increasingly, Americans are finding themselves in dangerous situations, and need the help of our service members and government officials. These folks are putting their lives on the line to protect us. They are preventing attacks on the homeland, rescuing those in distress, protecting those in harm's way, and performing humanitarian acts in ways that are simply amazing. 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, November 13th, 2014 at Mountain Gate Restaurant**

# Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – September 11th, 2014

The September 11, 2014 meeting was held at our new place - The Mountain Gate Family Restaurant - with 28 people in attendance. President Lou Orsini was unavailable so Vice President Bob Rothen conducted the meeting. Following the mart and buffet, he opened the meeting by reminding people to remember the people lost and their families in the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Neil Amrine, Treasurer, discussed an issue with the IRS about non-profit status. There was much discussion between members on information provided. More guidance will be provided next meeting. Alex Snouffer, Webmaster, introduced his guest from Shepherd. Alex then asked what we would like to see on our Web. We could have a link with the National's web and he explained how we could put projects on the web. He encouraged all members to access the web to see how it looks, works, etc. We can change most any format, use videos, and ask questions.

For the Program "Show and Tell". Several people presented items and discussed their significant features.

**Bob Rothen** discussed how he recently repaired a Langendorf Watch which is a Swiss Watch. One of the really odd things was that it had wheels in it that didn't work. The winding wheel was not attached, didn't turn, and was not connected. Seems it was just there for looks to make it appear more like an American Watch.

**Ray Snouffer** discussed a clock movement. Birg & Peck has rolling pinions to reduce the amount of friction. He bought it at a flea market in Pennsylvania. He also purchased a wooden work tall clock movement specifically unique to Joseph Ives about 1810. It has wooden rolling pinions which makes it run easier.

Frank Goad discussed 5 pocket watches - 2 Hampdens and 3 Hamiltons. He detailed Hampdens Copyright which put "Railway" on the 18 size dial about 1889. The 16 size also says "Railway". The 17 jewel Hamiltons were marketed to men that operated interurban trolley cars. The time requirement was not as stringent as for use with steam engines and were marketed as the Hamilton Electric Railway Special about 1919. Also around 1919, Hamilton had a Hamilton Electric Special which was next marked as Hamilton interurban Special. Hamilton kept changing what was on the dial because Hampden insisted they had a copyright to "Railway".

**George Tresansky** showed a World War I Swiss Louis Nardin 15 jewel Watch. It was housed in a silver case marked Corps of Engineers, USA #9056.

Harry Renner showed a Chiming New Haven clock that was unique because it winds on the side. The chimes were a separate unit by Wilcox (Canadian made) patented 1836.

**Al Bush** stated he has a poor opinion of quartz clocks but spotted a "spy" clock in a catalog. He purchased one and showed us how it worked. It has a video memory device which can be plugged into your computer. The camera isn't obvious when the clock is in use. It is motion activated and takes pictures with time and date stamp. It has jpeg as well as video motion output. Oh yes, it keeps accurate time.

**Neil Amrine** displayed an American clock with a bim bam strike. It is a Sessions mantel clock. As found, the hands had fallen off and the hinges had been fixed with gorilla glue. After dicking with the owners, he got it for a ridiculously "cheap" price (his words).

**Alex Snouffer** is starting to build a watch so he bought a Pratt & Whitney lathe to make parts. It is from the World War II era, certified by the War Board. All parts have the same number, which is rare. It has a vernier scale calibrated in minutes and seconds of arc, to ensure accuracy. It has all the collets with it as well as many other accessories.

**George Hudson** had a story about a clock. He showed a picture of a calendar mechanism and a diagram of an 8 day tall case clock. When he purchased the clock, he was assured it had been restored by a well known expert person. Brought it home, put it in his hall, and then noticed the calendar was not working right. After George took it apart, he finally realized the lever was too short to advance the clock. George then used brass tubing to easily fix the problem by making the lever longer.

**Wheeler Green** informed the members that he has a large supply of antique glass taken from a house. He is willing to sell or trade it for something if anyone is interested. Email [sparco5050@comcast.net](mailto:sparco5050@comcast.net).

The meeting was dismissed with a reminder to remember out military members serving around the world. Next meeting is Thursday, 13 November, 2014.

- Patsy Rothen

## "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 Mountain Gate Restaurant in November. 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](mailto: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](mailto:neil54@aol.com)

**If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting  
November 13th, 2014 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant**

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 13th, 2014

Remember our **November 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 for the next meeting is a work in progress. Bob is on travel, but I just got a phone call from him and he is working on getting an interesting speaker for our next meeting. I cannot reveal the details at this time but it seems that he has a way of always coming up with an interesting program for each meeting. I am looking forward to enjoying an excellent program and hope you are too. Plan on attending, we're looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. (And as a parting thought I want to remind you that if you have any special topic you would like to see presented at one of our future meetings or if you would like to present and share with us some of your horological endeavors or even know of another person who would be willing to, please inform Bob and he will be happy to try and make it happen.) —**Al Bush for 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 \_\_\_\_\_

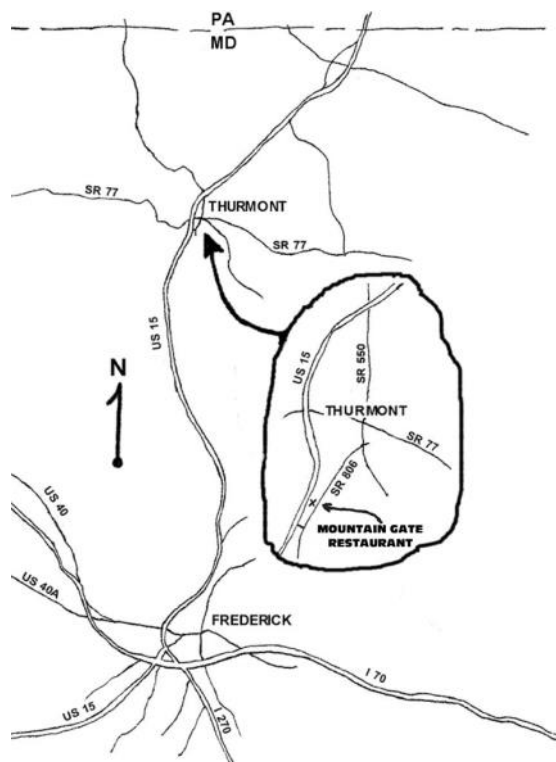
Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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

### A Diamond In The Rough

*(The following interesting input is thanks to our good friend Sam Morataya of Afram Jewelers. I think you will find it quite interesting. I have enlarged the image so you can easily see the detail.)*

While I was at school at NAWCC we had Elgin pocket watches everywhere. We had shelves and shelves of Elgins. Because of this, I would always laugh when an Elgin was listed as rare online. For the past 15 years I have serviced all pocket watches and I have never appreciated the Elgin name. Last month one of my customers brought in two pocket watches: A Vacheron, and an Elgin. She wanted to know their values. I said right away that the Elgin was worthless (but in kinder words). She wanted me to service and appraise it regardless. As I started to disassemble it I realized that this one was different. It was an Elgin 21 jewels Interchangeable Grade 72. What I realized was that the movement could be used in either an open-face or a hunter case and still maintain the proper dial orientation. As the picture shows it is a high grade watch.

Here is a description of the Elgin Grade 72: *the 21-jewel Interchangeable has the following features: stop-work on the mainspring barrel, gold time train, gold escape wheel, gold rivet on lever, gold guard pin on lever, gold banking pins, gold curb pins, gold screw on micrometer regulator, gold minute wheel, gold hub on the hour wheel, gold weights on the bi-metallic com-*

*pensation balance including chronometer style mean-time screws, gold settings for all jewels INCLUDING those on the pillar plate under the dial, super high-rise gold jewel settings for the time train on the top plate. Damaskeening and detailed engraving on the surface of the very high-grade nickel movement including the mainspring barrel and both sides of the pillar plate, all screws highly polished and with beveled edges, double-sunk high-grade enamel canister-type dial, Patek-quality hands, Moseley's micrometer regulator, Breguet-style balance spring, oil cups on the top and bottom pivots of the balance staff, red ruby jewels, tapered bottom on the hub of the hour wheel, counter-poised lever, and adjusted for heat, cold, isochronism, and position.*

As I did the appraisal I learned that the Elgin grade 72 is compared to the Patek. The Elgin Grade 72 was produced in limited quantity around 500 in total in 1879. As a result of my research, I assigned an appraisal value of \$7000! It was a pleasure to work on such a fine time piece and to learn that Elgin produced such fine pocket watches. Although this may not qualify as a "tech tip", I share it with you as an interesting tip on the surprising values of collectible watches!

**Sam Morataya 2014-06**

**Afram Jewelers**

1436 New York Ave NW

Washington DC 20005

(202) 347-0332 M-F 10-6

[www.aframjewelers.com](http://www.aframjewelers.com)



## WEB SITE NEWS BIT

from your webmaster, Alex Snouffer



It's finally autumn! I hope everyone is enjoying the start of football season as well as all of the new computer technology that was released this past month. As for our website, not many changes have been made thus far; however, the few requests I have received have been quite welcome, and I have tried to accommodate all of the requests. If you have not yet had a chance to check out our website please take a look. Finally, if there are any requests for changes to the website please let me know. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Alex, [arsnouffer@gmail.com](mailto:arsnouffer@gmail.com)

## Personal Postings For Chapter 141 Members

**INTRODUCTION:** This section 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](mailto: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? HAVE SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS?**

POST IT HERE!

#### **MAKE NOTE OF:**

**CHANGE of TIME & LOCATION for the NEXT MEETING on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014 at the MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT in Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373.**

Hope to see you all there!



#### **ANTIQUE GLASS.....**

**Wheeler Green** informed the members that she has a supply of antique glass taken from an old house. He would be willing to sell or trade it for something if anyone is interested.

You may contact Wheeler by email:

[Sparco5050@comcast.net](mailto:Sparco5050@comcast.net)