



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

**President**

*Lou Orsini*

**Vice President**

*Bob Rothen*

**Treasurer**

*Neil Amrine*

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*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** at:*

*([oh2batc@verizon.net](mailto:oh2batc@verizon.net))*

*or 703-352-7260.*

*Feedback for the Newsletter 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)*

**February – March**

*No.2015-02*

## President's Message

So, is anyone besides me ready for spring already? It's early February and yet it seems like winter has been going on for six months – good news for the skiers and snowboarders at least. And good news, I suppose, for all the football widows now that the Super Bowl in our rear view mirror. Not to worry though, as we're getting ready for the home stretch in hockey, and March Madness, both of which will be upon us at meeting time. Even though we should be snow-free by then, I want to take the opportunity to remind everyone of our **inclement weather policy**: if the Frederick schools are closed on the date of our meeting, we will cancel – otherwise the meeting is on. If you have any doubt, call Neil Amrine and ask.

My apologies once again for having missed the last meeting – I had one heck of a case of the flu – couldn't get out of bed for three days. So much for getting inoculated! But I'm back in gear again and looking forward to our **next meeting** on Thursday, March 12 at Mountain Gate. As most of you know, if we have your e-mail address, that we are considering a new location for our meetings due to some complaints we're received about our current venue. I've received some suggestions and will be further researching them. I will share my findings before the next meeting, and will be looking for your inputs as to whether a change is warranted, and if so, which place to choose.

Our **program** for the next meeting is going to be another good one with **Bob Rothen** finalizing the details. See the next meeting announcement in this newsletter for details. Let me again emphasize, Bob is doing a great job but at the same time ask you to give him a hand by **volunteering** to make a presentation,

or give him some leads for new programs. This is an important way to contribute to the Chapter and make us better. After all, being part of an organization is more than just about paying dues; it's about participating, and I look forward to everyone doing something to help us grow.

Another way to help the Chapter grow is by recruiting new members. Without a routine infusion of new blood, we will stagnate. While a person must be an NAWCC member to be a Chapter member, that doesn't mean you can't recruit non-members. If they come and like what they see, they may join the NAWCC. And don't forget that there are incentives for **recruiting new members**, both for you and the person you're recruiting. If you bring a guest, who is a potential new member, that person gets in free – the club picks up the cost of their meal. Then, if your guest joins the Chapter, your next meeting is free! Please take advantage of this offer; it is the basic definition of win-win.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in dangerous places throughout the world**. It seems like every day brings another global crisis with our military folks on the front lines in harm's way to protect each and every one of us. While we can never thank them enough, we sure can try, and that includes making sure our elected representatives, regardless of their Party, are paying attention to the needs of all government employees, and especially the military, protecting our freedoms through personal sacrifice. 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, March 12th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Restaurant***

# Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – January 8th, 2015

Meeting called to order by **President Lou Orsini** by wishing all a Happy New Year. Meeting was started with each attendee introducing themselves and giving a brief narrative on their varied interests. A welcome was given to 2 new members. **Neil** provided a Treasurer's Report for anyone wanting to look it over.

As is the custom for the first meeting of the New Year, the subject was "Show And Tell".

**Ray Snouffer** - started by telling us about a Herschede Case Clock with original 3/4" piping tubes. He showed us a display he had made for use in the clock that made the same beautiful tones. It was fashioned out of copper tubing of different lengths that made the same tone and could be substituted until finding of the correct tubes.

**Eric Kramer** - showed us a rare LeCoultre Obelisk Clock that was lovely and unique. The dial was about a quarter of the way up the shape of the obelisk and the rest was clear. Very beautiful!

**Wheeler Green** - used a vise to hold down a purpose built tool that had 4 different mandrel faces used to hold spring barrels. At \$150, it's not a cheap tool. He explained that he was able to use a tub drain wrench which he purchased for \$5.59 at Harbor Freight to do the same job.

**George Hudson** - His son was redecorating and wanted a nice clock so George bought him one. George carefully took it apart, put it back together and all seemed OK. After finishing, he put it on his desk but it didn't seem to work right so he took it to the basement and took it apart again. BUT - in the middle of the night, it came to him what was wrong!! The fly governor was too loose. So he took out the fly, tightened it up, put in a new spring/friction wire, and the clock now works fine.

**Frank Goad** - showed 4 Hamilton 18 size Railroad Watches. 1st was

a Hamilton Ball 17 jewel 1898 railroad grade adjusted to 5 positions. It differs from regular Hamilton due to micro regulator spring. It was similar to Hamilton 938. It says Ball & Co, vice the normal, Ball Watch Co. 2nd was a Hamilton Ball 1908 18 size 19 jewel. Has a jeweled barrel with 2 jewels. States it is 999 - assigned to railroad size. 3rd - 1899 Hamilton 938 18 size 17 jewel railroad grade started as 936 to 946. It didn't have gold or jewels like the high grade watch that people really wanted. The 4th watch was a 1908 Hamilton 946, 18 size, 23 jewel railroad grade watch. It is a very expensive watch that has all the fancy gold options. It has a Montgomery Dial which was not common. A railroad watch was required to keep excellent time and be within 30 seconds in two weeks.

**Alex Snouffer** - needed a 48 tooth indexing plate which was missing from a lathe tool holder package he bought. So he used aluminum and made his own 48 tooth indexing plate.

**Darcy Bertelman** - stated she had been looking for a watch of a size she could easily see. She found one which happened to be very expensive so she looked on the internet. She showed us her "treasure" unfortunately from China which cost \$4.91 including shipping. Her "tell" was that her 30 year old son purchased a skeleton watch - no battery - that winds itself by moving his arm and was thrilled with it.

**Alex Snouffer** - Webmaster, showed us how the club website worked, how the Newsletter was displayed on it, and explained how we could interface with NAWCC. Alex displayed us various examples we could use and again asked us to provide any suggestions on how he could make it better.

Meeting dismissed with a reminder to remember our brave men and women serving our Country. Next meeting is 12 March 2015.

- 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 . 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**  
**Thursday, March 12th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant**

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR MARCH 12th, 2015

How many of you have bought or sold things on eBay? There are few, if any, people with internet connections that have not looked up items on eBay and many of you have bought or even sold things on it. March's presentation will be a talk about eBay. The seminar will dive into the ins and outs of buying and selling on eBay. We'll look at best practices for selling and buying and how to avoid be taken by less than honest or unknowledgeable eBay sellers. There will be many photos of eBay listings and associated horological items. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

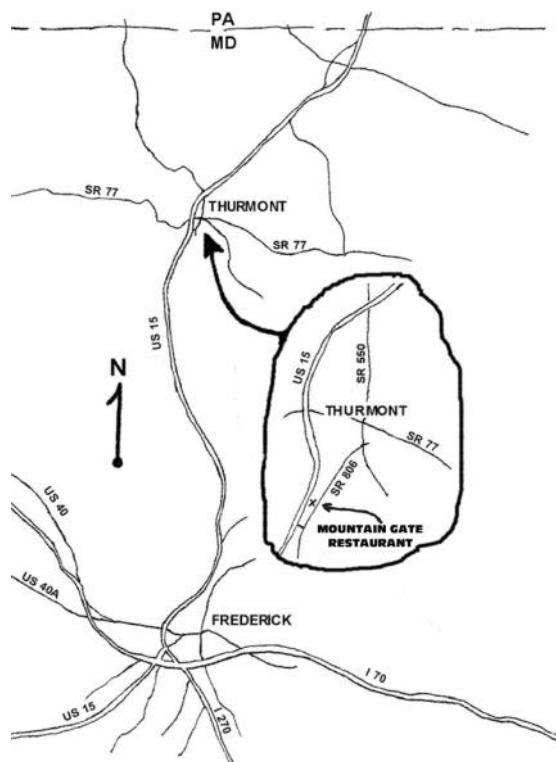
Number coming \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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](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

### Numbers on Watches

This tech tip is on the importance of numbers on a watch. Whether it's on the case or on the movement, the numbers are there for a reason, and we watchmakers certainly do rely on them!

There are times when I need a part for my watch repairs. I look at the movement for the calibre number and order the parts that I need. The numbers on the case and movement provide certain information. Calibre numbers vary in their location.

For example:



*The omega calibre is usually found on the automatic.*



*The Rolex is found on the automatic bridge.*

Some calibre numbers are located on the main plate or under the bridge.

The calibre numbers are there to help identify the movement to order the correct parts. When I need to replace the hands on an Omega I must provide the numbers on the lugs. This will identify the style of hands that come with the watch. The year in which a

Rolex was manufactured can be found by looking up the numbers on the case in between the lugs. This makes my job easier when I am appraising a Rolex watch. Serial numbers on the movement are there to identify the watch in case of any dispute of ownership. I have come to depend on these numbers. So when I was overhauling a 50th anniversary Gruen pocket watch and needed a detent, I looked for the calibre number but could not find one. The only number on it was on the train bridge, but that represented the production number. I called several watch supply houses and tried to order the detent by just stating that it was the Gruen 50th anniversary pocket watch.



Everyone knew about the watch and said how nice it was. They all asked for the calibre number and I was told that in order to place the order a calibre number was needed. I looked up the Gruen pocket watch online and read all about it, how wonderful the watch is, the limited production, how expensive it was to buy, but could not find any mention of a calibre number.

I reached out to my friend Neil Amrine who put me in touch with Darcy Bertelmann who suggested I contact Jim Michaels. So I have come full circle. Jim was my teacher at NAWCC.

I am going to reach out to Jim this week and hopefully find a way to identify my famous watch with no Calibre number.

**Sam Morataya-NAWCC, SGUS**

**Afram Jewelers**

1436 New York Ave NW

Washington, DC. 20005

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

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

## WEB SITE NEWS BIT

from your webmaster, Alex Snouffer



Hope everyone is enjoying this fairly calm winter. I've been looking at our website in further detail as to how to accomplish the changes that I proposed last meeting. I am hoping to have most of the changes done before the next meeting. If anyone has thought about the "history of the chapter" information, feel free to email me. Hope to see 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!

**NOTE TIME & LOCATION for our NEXT MEETING on THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015 at the MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT in Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373.**

Hope to see you all there!

