



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

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Treasurer

Neil Amrine

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For more information about the chapter, you may contact the President Lou Orsini at:

oh2batc@verizon.net

or 703-352-7260.

Feedback for the Newsletter should be addressed to Al Bush at:
agbush172@verizon.net
or 410-531-5307.

Feedback for the Web Site should be addressed to Alex Snouffer at: arsnouffer@gmail.com

October – November

No.2015-06

President's Message

What a crazy year this has been with extreme weather shifts, but the good news is that autumn is upon us with its moderate weather of warm days and cool nights. Now if I could just figure out where to find this weather all the time, I would really have a great place to retire. The other great part about this time of year (at least for us sports nuts) is the overlapping of the baseball playoffs, football nearing mid-season, 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; but apparently we entered the Christmas season simultaneous with the end of summer, or at least the department stores have.

I know I'm sounding like a broken record, but we are in desperate need for other members to fill the various **Chapter officer positions** (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor) for the next two years. As I've said before, none of our positions are complex or involve a significant commitment of time and resources; all that is required is a willingness to serve. And so I ask everyone, once again, to please consider taking one of the positions.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 12 at Mountain Gate, and **George Hudson** has graciously agreed to make a presentation on "E. Howard #1687, The Story of a Tower Clock." I know we have all enjoyed hearing about George's experiences dealing with clocks in the past, so you can be certain it will be extremely informative and well worth our time and attention. And please consider

bringing a friend, colleague, co-worker, neighbor or anyone else who might be interested in joining us. It really is a good deal for your guest (adult, non-family member), who gets a free meal out of it, and potentially good for you (also a free meal if your guest joins NAWCC and the Chapter), and definitely a good deal for the Chapter as we bring in new ideas and experiences.

Finally, as always, please **remember our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan, the Middle East, West Africa,** and other dangerous places throughout the world. Increasingly, American citizens are finding themselves in dangerous situations, and need the help of our service members and government officials. Making it all the more challenging is that these are not traditional combat roles for which our service members are highly trained, but situations where fighters mix with innocent civilians and use suicide tactics. This places our troops in the position of having to make shoot/don't shoot decisions where the wrong choice results either in dead and wounded Americans or dead and wounded civilians who were doing nothing wrong. Despite these challenges, there are very few mistakes, but when they do occur, everyone is second-guessed. These folks are putting their lives on the line to protect us, and they need our support. 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 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 12th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Restaurant

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – September 17th, 2015

The meeting was held at the Mountain Gate Restaurant, Thursday, September 17. It was called to order by **Neil Amrine**, Treasurer at 5:45 pm. There were 17 people in attendance. President **Lou Orsini** was not in attendance.

Both Vice President **Bob Rothen** and Secretary **Pat Rothen** have resigned their offices. Bob Rothen has provided us with many good programs. They have recently purchased an RV and will be traveling extensively. This brings to light the need for new leadership of the Chapter for the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. All of these members have served their offices for a number of years and it is essential that other members step forward to take their place. If you possibly can, please volunteer for a position. We currently have 54 members on our roster. Each meeting averages 20 - 30 members and we have a treasury balance of over \$3,000. So we are fairly active as a group but we need some members to step up to help lead us.



New member, **Jon Ford**, was in attendance. He is a MBSI member and lives in Blue Ridge Summit. We welcome him to the group.

Tom Mostyn brought up the fact that Show & Tell is a popular program for both our Chapter and other Chapters. A Chapter 32 (California) member told of purchasing 2 watches on EBay for 1 cent each then paid \$18 for shipping. Tom also mentioned how fortunate Chapter 141 has been with good meeting locations such as Dandy, Cozy Inn and now Mountain Gate. Other Chapters are meeting at college cafeterias, senior centers, town halls, libraries, country clubs, American Legion and

churches. Often they have to change their location at each meeting. Other Chapters meet in members' homes. We are fortunate to have a nice meal and place to display collections.

For the program, **Neil Amrine** brought 10 clocks from part of his collection. They all have the same wind up movements. All are made in Germany with zero jewels. All are in working order. Their cases are of ceramic and white metal. They have different manufacturer's names, but Neil believes all are made at the Mercedes Clock Company factory, in East Germany in the 1940s - 1980s. All movements fit into one another's cases, making replacement quite easy and inexpensive. Best of all, his wife loves them and encourages him to buy more. This is a good thing!



Tom Mostyn brought in a windmill clock that he took in as a repair and ultimately purchased it as the original owner had buyer's remorse and sold it to him at cost. It was made by the Globe Clock Company in 1920, with a limited production of 10 to 50. The point was made that rare does not necessarily mean high value. It is a German movement, with modified winding arbors (3 ratchet wheel mechanism in place of one) and bevel gearing from the second time wheel (1 revolution per hour) to the top of the arbor for the windmill mechanism.

The need for volunteers to replace existing officers was again brought up. Please volunteer!

Neil Amrine closed the meeting at 7:30 pm.

–**Deanne Mostyn** (Acting Secretary)

“Treasurer’s Tidbits”

Hi folks!

I would remind all members to send in their dues, if they are not fully paid... dues are 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 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 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
Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 12th, 2015



At our next meeting **George Hudson** has graciously agreed to make a presentation on “E. Howard #1687, The Story of a Tower Clock.” I know we have all enjoyed hearing about George’s experiences dealing with clocks in the past, so you can be certain it will be extremely informative and well worth our time and attention. I am sure it will be an interesting one. Plan on attending, we’re looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Come out and join us for a pleasant evening.

— AI

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 _____

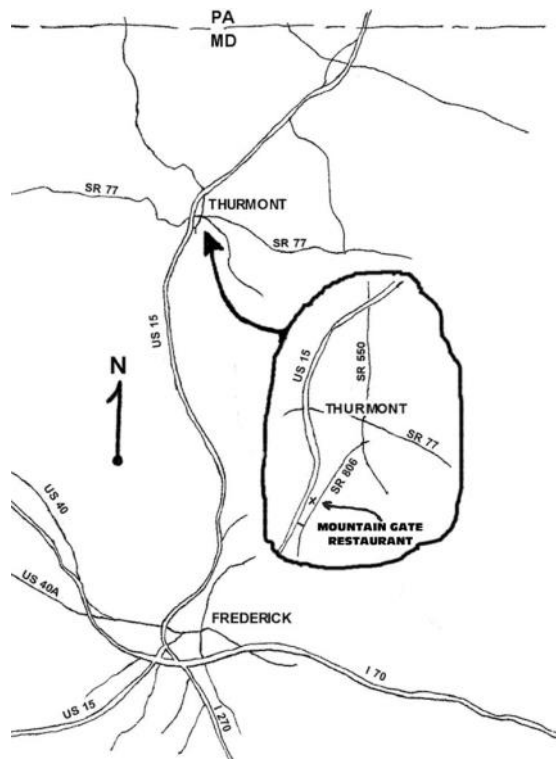
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

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

Horological Talk

This topic has been labeled Horology Talk. That means it could be most anything but should be related somehow, even by a very thin thread, to Horology. My Dad always told me, "Son, when you get a job, always try to work with people that are smarter than you. That way you will be able to learn more every day." I have always tried to do that. That is one reason I enjoy our clock group so much. Once, when I was working with a gentleman who had his new PhD in physics, I concluded there are what I call two types of physicists, both needed. One is the dry physicist who knows all the theory from A to Z, but is not at home in the laboratory. In this case the gentleman had just gotten his PhD in physics and was building an electronic device in the lab by just twisting the component leads together. Being of upper scale intellect he knew he had a problem and ask one of the technicians working next to him, "isn't there a better way to join these wires?" The technician said sure and got a soldering iron and some solder and proceeded to show him how to solder the connections together. Immediately upon completion he ask, "How long does it take to dry?" I guess solidifying is sort of like drying, in a way. He was a quick learner and henceforth lost his title as a dry physicist. The moral to that story is that, no matter how much you know, there is more to be learned. Seeing some of the solder jobs on clocks I have repaired, I have been reminded, often, of this story. First I don't like to see solder used in the clocks and if it is, it needs to be used properly and sparingly. Clocks are a good place to find cold solder joints where the solder hasn't flowed smoothly because the materials being joined were not heated properly before applying the solder and often haven't been cleaned thoroughly. If you need to use solder find out how, and do it right. Be sure the components are cleaned properly and heated to melt the solder. Don't melt the solder on the iron and carry it to your work. And for goodness sakes clean off the remaining flux. It may look OK now but with time and moisture it will corrode. So look around. It can spatter all over.

So much for the dry physicist, the other type in my mind is the wet physicist. I worked for a number of years beside one who fit this category very well. He was a hands-on person who also knew his theory well and was fortunate to have had considerable experience along the way. One of the first things he told me was that when working in the laboratory you will be using ammonia for certain things. It is useful in cleaning brass. You will also be using other cleaners and possible acids that contain chlorine. Clorox for example, is a cleaner. He cautioned me to never mix the ammonia and the Clorox (chlorine) together. Why? They are both cleaners. Have you ever heard of phosgene? It is a poison gas used in the First World War. It is Not good for you, at all. Guess where I now run into those cleaners again? When I started cleaning clock movements, there they are. Add that to the fact we use ultrasonic cleaners for clock and watch movements brings up another potential problem along this nature. The high frequency vibration of the cleaner unit can break down some chemical compounds as well, producing gases not good to breathe. It is probably best to stick with the commercial cleaners to use in the ultrasonic tank, since they have been factory tested. I have used a number of cleaners, some homemade and some commercial. Same is true for rinses. I have various nasty smelling cleaners and solvents on hand,

but carefully use them only for limited applications and you should have good ventilation in all cases. When antiquing, I frequently start up a conversation with antique dealers at flea market events and you would be surprised at the stories. I think one of the most common I came across was kerosene and a close second was WD40 (or its equivalent). I don't think you or I would recommend either of those.

I have settled on two products, one for cleaning and one for rinsing. I feel it is necessary to disassemble a movement to clean it properly. I then check the parts and remove any heavily caked old lubricant with an orange stick if necessary. Try to make sure there are no hidden sites (sites that trap the cleaning fluid) that will not clean well and treat them separately if necessary. Also when rinsing, be sure the cleaner drains out of them as you move to the rinse. (Sometimes they should be disassembled further). I usually clean in the ultrasonic for about 10 minutes and then rinse in a pan of fresh water by sloshing the basket. This takes about 2 or 3 minutes. I don't like to leave it in the water too long because of risk of rust on steel parts. I want to rinse out or dilute the remnants of any cleaner with the water. It saves my rinse. Then I shake off the water and drop the basket into the rinse tub. I usually agitate it slightly for 30 seconds. It may set a minute or two in the rinse while I am working. Then I remove the parts and shake or wipe any residual rinse from the parts to rid the excess. At this point, I then put it under an old hair dryer hood and let the warm air circulate for about 5 or 10 minutes. This removes or dries any residual rinse. The residual rinse on the parts serves as a protectorate from finger prints and tarnish. I may be right or wrong, but I don't like to lacquer the brass parts and the rinse I use is designed to provide an element of that type of protection, but I believe it may allow the patina to develop naturally again with time. Parts I have looked at over a few years look good.

The type of cleaning solution I use is the Magnum Power Clock Cleaning Solution by Alcar Chemical Co. It is available at Merritt's or at TimeSavers. The concentrated liquid was in the \$35 range per gallon the last time I purchased it. You



than water it down in a ratio of 1part solution to 7 parts water as you use it. So you wind up with a total



of about 8 gallons. It is water based and contains ammonia. The rinse I use is Polytect #2CB by Polychem Company. It is used as it comes from the jug and I use it until it becomes saturated with water and residue from the cleaning solution. I find it lasts quite a while. Their recommendations for usage are: **USE FULL STRENGTH, RINSE PARTS THOROUGHLY IN WATER, IMMERSE OR SPRAY FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS, RINSE WITH WATER AND DRY IN AMBIENT TEMPERATURE.** I deviate from this slightly. I rinse in water for about 2 or 3 minutes, drain, shake and blow the water off, then immerse and agitate in #2CB for about 30 seconds and they may remain in #2CB for as much as 2 minutes while I am working to put them in the dryer. I let them blow dry for about 10 minutes with moderate temperature (a bit hotter than room temperature. Hope this information can be useful to you.



Al Bush 2015-06

WEB SITE NEWS BIT

from your webmaster, Alex Snouffer



Hope everyone is enjoying the lovely transition into fall. The website update is going a little slower than what I would have liked. The few added pages that I was hoping to have done by the end of the summer have been pushed back to Thanksgiving or maybe even Christmas. However, on the bright side, I believe I have finally fixed all of the broken links and misinformation on our website. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, which I will definitely be at. Again, hope everyone is well, and enjoying all of the current functionality of the website. Hope everybody enjoys the next meeting.

Regards, *Alex*

Here is the link to our website: <http://community.nawcc.org/chapter141/home/>

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

PERSONAL POSTINGS

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? HAVE SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS?

POST IT HERE!

NOTE TIME & LOCATION for our NEXT MEETING ON:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 at the

MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT
in Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373.

Hope to see you all there!



NAWCC PRESENTS:



The Witching Hour Halloween Ball

WHERE: National Watch & Clock Museum
Columbia, PA

WHEN: Saturday, October 31st 2015—7pm to 10pm

Welcome all witches and creatures of fright, devils, demons, and ghouls of the night! Like a witch on her broomstick, time will fly on October 31 as the National Watch and Clock Museum holds its first Witching Hour Halloween Ball.

On this Daylight Saving Time weekend join the Museum from 7 to 10 p.m. as it marks the end of daylight saving time with mysterious music, devilish drinks, and hallowing hors d'oeuvres. A haunting hearse will welcome each guest to the Museum, and a spooky signature drink will be available at the cash bar. Costumes always add to the fun and are strongly encouraged, but not required. Parisan and Sons Entertainment will provide the dance music, and media sponsor 96.1 SOX will announce winners of several categories for best costume. The Museum will also be open for attendees.

Tickets are \$15 per individual and \$25 per couple. Come in your best costume. To purchase tickets visit www.nawccstore.org or call 717-684-8261 ext.211. *21 and over event.