



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

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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*

June – July

No. 2016-04

President's Message

Happy Summer! I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather that we've seen lately to take advantage of some outdoor activities such as walking, exploring, bird watching, sports, swimming, and other warm weather things to do. For those on a summer break from work, perhaps it's a time to go on vacation, spend more time with family and friends, or simply take a break from the job. And for those who are retired, just keep doing what makes you happy! So, take the time to do all those outdoors things you really enjoy, and I hope to see more of you in September.

We had another great meeting last month, and while attendance was a bit light as it seems to be traditionally in our last meeting before the summer break, it was still excellent with a superb program that generated a lot of questions, and as folks mingled and enjoyed the company of fellow watch and clock enthusiasts. Our mini-mart was pretty good – I even managed to sell a pretty ugly clock to **George Hudson** for a buck, who undoubtedly will try to use it to win an ugly clock contest. If he wins, I'm going to demand a share of the prize! As already mentioned, we had a really outstanding program with **Sam Morataya** from *Afram Jewelers*, who regaled us with his stories of running a watch repair business just a block from the White House. And as I'm sure you all know, Sam is a regular contributor to our Technical Tips that appear at the end of each Newsletter – except this one. Let me explain why.

Several weeks ago, **Al Bush** informed me that he would be out of pocket for several months, possibly more, for personal reasons mainly related to family health issues. Consequently, Al turned over all his Newsletter materials and format documents to me. As you know, Al has been a rock for Chapter 141, consistently organizing and publishing one of the best newsletters you will find anywhere in the NAWCC. I have come to depend on him, and never had to worry about what this part of running the Chapter – Al is the best. Now the burden has fallen to me, and

frankly I cannot add another responsibility to my growing portfolio. Besides working full time, I am the Secretary for a naval history organization and engaged in some personal responsibilities that take up a good deal of my time. I simply don't have the bandwidth to be the President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, and so I am seeking – desperately – someone to take over as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. You've heard me beg for volunteers plenty of times in the past, and I am most grateful to **Neil Amrine** (VP), **Darcy Bertelmann** (Treasurer), **Alex Snouffer** (Webmaster), and **Wheeler Green** (A/V) for the great work they are doing for the Chapter, but we need more of our members to be engaged. If we get no volunteers, I don't see much I can do except stop doing these things.

The end of June means it is once again time for your annual dues. As we have for the past decade plus, we have kept the price at just \$8/year; essentially enough to offset the cost of producing and delivering the Newsletter. Please send your dues to Darcy and you will continue to be a member in good standing with Chapter 141 for another year.

And finally, as always, please join me in remembering and thanking all who serve in our nation's armed forces and other U.S. officials serving overseas. They perform critical work to protect U.S. national security interests and to safeguard us from bad things and people, often without us being even remotely aware of their efforts and sacrifices. As we get ready to celebrate our country's independence, please remember that we remain a free country, where its citizens can criticize the government without fear of retribution, because of the sacrifices these heroes make every day on the front lines around the world. So take a moment to say thanks to those who serve, and to lend a hand when you can to their families.

Lou Orsini, president

Our next meeting will be Happy Summer! No Meeting Until September 8th.

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – May 13th, 2016

Chapter 141 held their bimonthly meeting at the Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, Maryland with 22 members and guests participating. As usual, there was a mini-mart, and I'm happy to report that some items changed hands to the delight of both buyer and seller. President **Lou Orsini** opened the meeting with Vice President **Neil Amrine**, Treasurer **Darcy Bertelmann**, and Webmaster **Alex Snouffer** providing updates. **Wheeler Green** won the 50-50.

Among the issues discussed was the recently concluded annual tri-chapter meeting in Woodsboro, and an update on the medical status of one of our members who was injured. It was decided that the Chapter needs a point of contact to send get-well and sympathy cards to members when appropriate, and **Deanne Mostyn** volunteered to take on that responsibility.

Sam Morataya, a watchmaker and co-owner of *Afram Jewelers*, which is a family-owned and operated business in Washington DC, was our speaker. Sam enthralled the audience talking about how he became interested in watchmaking, which started in 1999, his training and experience, and how the store operates. Being directly across the street from the White House, the store gets a lot of business from people who work there including

From your Treasurer

Hello! There are a couple of things I need to remind members aware of.

The deadline for making reservations for a meeting is the Tuesday before the Thursday meeting. I need to have a count for the restaurant by the morning of the day before the meeting. Please make every effort to get your reservations in by the Tuesday deadline so we are fair to Mountain Gate, and they can accurately plan for food and wait staff for us. I look forward to seeing you at the September 8th meeting.

Chapter Dues for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 must be paid by June 30, 2016 in order to be current. I have included a line item for dues on the reservation form should you wish to pay them. Annual dues are only \$8.00 (unchanged since 2007). New members must use the renewal form below and include the additional membership information so we have the correct information for contacting you and providing the newsletter.

Contact me at horologybuff@gmail.com or call me at 717-487-5198 if you have questions. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Mountain Gate Restaurant for the next meeting. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the meeting reservations.

Darcy Bertelmann

Attention: It is important also to keep Darcy Bertelmann at horologybuff@gmail.com or at 717-487-5198 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 _____ Prefer 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:

Darcy Bertelmann, 925 Johnson Drive, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325-8903 Phone: 717-487-5198; email: horologybuff@gmail.com

President Bush and Vice President Biden, although they didn't always know who owned the watches until after the repairs were completed. He said that Bob Dole was one of the funniest customers he ever had. The store is primarily a jewelry store, but it also is a full service watch repair shop. Sam has two benches full of repair work in process at any given time, and typically has a 4-6 week backlog of work. His wife is a gemologist for the store, and his 86 year old father-in-law still does watch repair part time to help out. Most of their business comes from word-of-mouth and personal relationships they've built over time. He showed us an In-Store magazine article describing the energy efficient lighting the store recently installed, which he described as a vast improvement in visibility for customers when examining jewelry. Apparently it also works fine for watch repair.

Much of the program consisted of a robust question and answer session, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The next Chapter meeting will be September 8.

– Lou Orsini,

Acting Secretary