



# Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

December

No.2019-06



**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays to all!** The holiday season is in full swing as you can tell from all the advertisements and decorations that seem to be everywhere. Some folks had their Christmas decorations up before Halloween (or perhaps they are left over from last Christmas?). Please be extra alert at this time of the year as there is often much stress along with the joys of the season. It is a time of giving and goodwill, but sometimes all the holiday pressures can cause undue stress. Don't worry about making everything perfect. Relax, enjoy and soak in the different blessings we all have. I wish for everyone a very happy holiday period and a prosperous new year.

I am pleased to announce we have a **new Treasurer** effective December 19. **Wheeler Green** is taking over from **Darcy Bertelmann**, who has faithfully served in the position for the past four years. I am extremely grateful for all of Darcy's great work especially getting us right with the IRS and thank her for her service to Chapter 141. And thank you Wheeler for volunteering to serve as Treasurer; we look forward to working with you.

Since the **next meeting is January 9**, let me remind you 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, ask me. The January program is our annual **“Show & Tell”**. Bring something rare, odd, unusual, sentimental, beautiful, ugly or mysterious - anything with a story you can tell and/or a horological item that will generate questions and comments. Tell your story and invite others to comment. This meeting is always loads of fun because of your participation. It takes several people to make a good program, and it doesn't require any special talent; just bring a clock or watch (or anything related to clocks and watches) and provide a short explanation or story. To encourage your participation, every member who makes a presentation will get a nice surprise when you check in. Don't miss this meeting; it is sure to be another interesting one, just as long as you participate. It will be fun!

Despite some too loud music in the room next to us, **Dave Gorrell** kept everyone enthralled with his presentation last month on Finding Longitude, the John Harrison Story. It was equally informative and entertaining as Dave expertly wove the political and maritime history of the 18<sup>th</sup> century into the story of how Harrison solved one of the greatest scientific problems of his time to the great benefit of oceanic navigation and global trade. He also showed videos of Harrison's clocks, when they were on display.

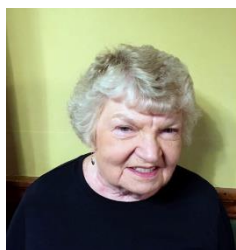
Finally, as always, **please remember our brave men and women serving in dangerous places throughout the world**, especially during the holiday season. These American heroes are working 7x24, in challenging environments, and under austere conditions to protect us all. Being deployed during this time of the year can be a particularly difficult time for them and their families as the usual stress of service is magnified by the desire to be together for the holidays. Please keep all our service members and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home, and look for opportunities to say thank you whenever you can.

**Lou**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, January 9, 2020 at Mountain Gate Restaurant**

## THE CHAPTER 141 FREE STATE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2019



**LOCATION:** Mountain gate Family Restaurant, 133 Fredrick Road, Thurmont, MD 21788

**WHEN:** Second Thursday or odd-numbered months, except July, 5:30 pm

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Lou Orsini -- [oh2bac73@comcast.net](mailto:oh2bac73@comcast.net), or Wheeler Green – [Sparco505@comcast.net](mailto:Sparco505@comcast.net)

**WEBSITE:** <http://community.nawcc.org/chapter141/Home>

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** President Lou Orsini presided over the November 14, 2019 meeting.

There were 23 people in attendance, who enjoyed the Mountain Gate buffet. We are happy to welcome new member, Bill Cann, who is from the Potomac American Watch and Clock Institute

and living in northern Virginia.

President Lou Orsini called the meeting to order and reminded everyone to avail ourselves of the “**For Sale**” table at each meeting. In addition, the Newsletter offers a “Buy and Sell” section for members’ use. Al Bush is always looking for horological tips for publication in the Newsletter.

Neil Amrine advised that the next meeting on 01/09/20 will be **Show and Tell**, which is a longtime favorite.

Be sure to gather up your interesting horological items and bring them to that meeting for everyone to enjoy.

There was a discussion about the high turnout at the Mid-Eastern Regional Meeting in York, PA. Lots of interesting horological finds were for sale many of which found new homes. The next two annual mid-eastern regionals also will take place in York. Darcy Bertelmann gave the Treasurer’s report, which indicates a healthy outlook. Darcy has held the Treasurer’s position for four years now and has asked for volunteers to replace her in this position.

Dave Gorrell, a recent new member of Chapter 141, but long-time member of the National and Chapter 1, made a presentation on John Harrison and the search for longitude. Dave’s presentation started with some history and the need for countries to go beyond their shore line in search of trade for spices, silks and other goods. As many sailors were hesitant to go much beyond sight of the shore, various methods of determining their position were presented, all laborious and time consuming. It wasn’t until the naval disaster at Scilly Isles in 1707 in which four Royal Navy ships under the command of Sir Cloudesley Shovell struck the rocks of Scilly Isles with the loss of 1,647 men with only 26 survivors. This at the time was the worst maritime disaster ever and caused nations to begin to take seriously the need for an accurate method for determining a ship’s location at sea. England came up with “The Longitude Act” and a prize equivalent to \$4,500,000 in today’s money for anyone who could develop an accurate and reliable method of determining location. Dave then presented the mechanical aspects of John Harrison’s clocks known as H1, H2, H3 and H4. John Harrison was a carpenter by trade and was going up against the greatest scientific mathematicians, astronomers and others of the times who were also seeking a solution, which created a highly charged political situation. Dave concluded his presentation discussing John Harrison’s problems of getting payment from the government since his clocks exceeded requirements set forth in the Act. Ultimately, King George III ordered payment be made in 1773, more than 30 years after Harrison introduced H1. Harrison passed away three years later never getting to enjoy much of his prize money. This short synopsis does not do justice to Dave’s excellent research, detail and most enjoyable presentation.

President Lou Orsini closed the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanne Mostyn, Secretary

**President** – Lou Orsini, for more Chapter information contact at: [oh2bac73@comcast.net](mailto:oh2bac73@comcast.net) or 717-457-0355.

**Vice President** – Neil Amrine, contact at: [neil54@aol.com](mailto:neil54@aol.com) or 301-229-2587.

**Treasurer** – Wheeler Green, contact at: [Sparco505@Comcast.net](mailto:Sparco505@Comcast.net) or 301-801-5005.

**Secretary** – Deanne Mostyn, contact at: [dgm0714@hotmail.com](mailto:dgm0714@hotmail.com) or 410-337-6835.

**Newsletter Editors** – Al Bush, contact at [agbush172@gmsil.com](mailto:agbush172@gmsil.com) or 717-359-0432.

-- Rhonda, Stran contact at [Rhondamrs7@gmail.com](mailto:Rhondamrs7@gmail.com) or 717-398-4229.

**Webmaster** -- Alex Snouffer, contact at: [arsnouffer@gmail.com](mailto:arsnouffer@gmail.com) or 301-797-6133.

**Board of directors** – George Hudson, Frank Goad, Robert Rothen

# JANUARY PROGRAM

+

## If you have an interest in Clocks, Watches or Horology You won't want to miss Our Next Meeting

*Thursday, January 9th, 2019 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant*

**CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2020** The program for this meeting **IS** our Popular **SHOW AND TELL!** Do I need say more? Get out your best, most interesting Horological possession, practice your most entertaining explanation and share it with us. Lou has added some additional descriptors to this too. Bragging rights can last for weeks if not months. And if you read the first page of the Newsletter it says you'll get a nice surprise when you check in if you make a presentation.

This program is of general interest to all. It always is a very interesting and informative program. Plan to come join us for a pleasant evening with friends and fellow Horologists. We'll look forward to seeing you there. If you have been around as long as time itself, or just acquired your first clock or watch I am sure you will enjoy it. Come join in, we will welcome you. It is a social atmosphere where horological problems, solutions, history and finds are all a topic of conversation. If you don't enjoy it and take something away with you, be it information or a special horological acquisition, then you must not have been at **our** get together. And don't forget, if you don't get all the food you can eat, it is your fault. We will be looking forward to seeing you there. Oh! If you are having a horological problem, absolutely do not hesitate to ask for help. The room will be well saturated with experts. If we don't know the answer, we probably know someone who does. *(By the way, if you ask a question, I may learn something too.)*

**Mart: Come early for the mart Meeting time is -- Dinner: about 6:15 PM Business/Program: follows dinner**

**Meeting Reservations:** You may use the meeting reservation form below to mail in your reservations for Free State Chapter 141 meetings. You should indicate the meeting date as you complete the form. You may also make reservations via e-mail to [Sparco505@gmail.com](mailto:Sparco505@gmail.com) by providing Wheeler Green with the information requested on the meeting reservation form or by Calling Wheler at **301-801-5005** and informing him 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 Chapter 141 Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_**

**Number Coming \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Number of Mart Tables \_\_\_\_\_ (Mart Tables are Free)**

**Local Chapter Dues Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00 per member for the year beginning June 30.**

**(New members please use Membership & Renewal form under "From Your Treasurer").**

**Please make checks payable to Free State Chapter 141 and mail to Wheeler Green,**

**13619 Harrisville Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771-7923**

**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

# From your Treasurer

*Hello! There are a couple of things I need to make all members aware of.*

**The deadline for making reservations for a meeting:**

**Tuesday before the Thursday meeting.**

**Please note that you will be making your reservations to our new Treasurer Wheeler Green**

**Attention:** It is important also to keep Wheeler Green at [Sparco505@comcast.com](mailto:Sparco505@comcast.com) or at **301-801-5005** advised of any change in your membership information, address changes, etc.

**We cannot keep you informed if you don't keep us informed.**

**This is our annual "SHOW AND TELL"**, therefore, if you are making a presentation or showing something tell Wheeler when you and pay for your meal (\$17,00). There will be a nice surprise for you. Please inform Wheeler if you are making a presentation.

We need your reservation by the Tuesday before the Thursday meeting so that Mountain Gate can reserve space for us and plan for food for the meal. You may mail in the reservation form on the previous page or call or email to inform Wheeler on or before the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

If you have not yet paid your annual dues for this year, please pay at the January meeting or mail a check at your earliest convenience. Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. If you need to check your status, please contact Wheeler. Make checks payable to **Free State Chapter 141**.

Mail to Wheeler Green, 13619 Harrisville Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771-7923

**Please keep us informed:** If you have had any changes in your membership information, for example: a change of address, email or phone number, please send that information to Wheeler either by mail, phone. Or email. Please help keep us keep you informed.

## **FREE STATE CHAPTER 141 MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer Newsletter via EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ or USMAIL \_\_\_\_\_.

**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:**

**Wheeler Green, 13619 Harrisville Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771-7923**

**Phone 301-801-5005 email [Sparco505@comcat.net](mailto:Sparco505@comcat.net)**

**Please make checks payable to Free State Chapter 141 and mail to**

# Web Page Update



I'm still keeping an eye on our website. It has come to our attention that some of our newsletters are not available on our website. This has been traced primarily to two factors. The issues when published were not also placed on our website and in some cases, there was no newsletter published for that date. *(Editor's note: I am in the process (which has been delayed for a couple of months) of helping trace down any actual missing newsletters and taking steps to insure that as the newsletters are published, they are also placed on our website. In the process I have also found that in the distant past newsletters were placed on previous websites Chapter141 had at locations other than the NAWCC website. These websites are no longer active but I was able to retrieve several past issues before the site was taken down. As time allows we will attempt to include these past newsletters on our current website. Al)*  
**Alex, [arsnoffer@gmail.com](mailto:arsnoffer@gmail.com)**

## Personal Postings for Chapter 141 Members.....

**ATTENTION:** 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. 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. However, it is not intended that editing will be required for information you submit. It will speed things up if the information is submitted in Microsoft WORD file format as a .doc or .docx file by email to [agbush172@gmail.com](mailto:agbush172@gmail.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. Some sample postings that will give you an idea of what can be posted in a 2x3½" space was given in the 2013-04, June-July, issue of this newsletter. Effort will be made to maintain your posting, wording and presentation as you have submitted it.

**NOTE: TIME & LOCATION** for our NEXT MEETING on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020** at the **MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373

----- HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE -----



+++++ POSTINGS +++++

**(Note: Due to personal commitments, I was unable to provide a technical article this issue. Hopefully next issue those issues will have been successfully cleared up.)**