



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

August

No.2020-05



Let me start with a huge **thank you to Guy & Rhonda Stran and Al & Shirley Bush** for hosting a very nice get together in July at their home. When we had to cancel our May meeting, Guy contacted me to offer their home as a place where we could get together to socialize and enjoy a catered meal while maintaining social distancing. All who attended had a great time and really appreciated seeing one another again after all these months. As a bonus, Al gave a tour of his vast clock collection and his workshop, and of Shirley's elephant collection. Mr. Ed's "elephant museum" paled in comparison.

This is normally the time and place where I would be talking about the seasons, holidays, sports and other such things. However, this is turning out to be the most unusual time perhaps in anyone's history; it really is unprecedented (I think) in global reach and impacts. Let's hope an effective vaccine will soon be developed and available worldwide.

I was very much hoping I could tell you we are definitely meeting this fall, but we are still in the tentative stage due continued pandemic concerns. As I am drafting this at the end of July, we don't know if Mountain Gate will be able to accommodate us for our regularly scheduled meeting on September 10th or what restrictions will still be in place then. Hence, **our September meeting is tentative**. I will let everyone know whether or not we will meet in early September. If we meet, **Ray Snouffer** will finally get the opportunity to make a presentation on the lifting arm clock he recently built. I got a sneak preview of the clock and it is impressive.

As always, please **remember the brave American men and women**, both military and civilian, serving in dangerous places throughout the world and at home to keep us safe. They have a job that is challenging even in the best of times, which has been further complicated by the pandemic we are in. In some instances, their ability to stand guard or respond to dangerous situations have been weakened because responders fall victim to the virus. We all need to do our part to support first responders as they put their lives on the line every day to protect and assist us. Please keep all our public servant heroes, military, police, firefighters, medical personnel and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Stay safe out there and hopefully we will soon be able to safely get together again.

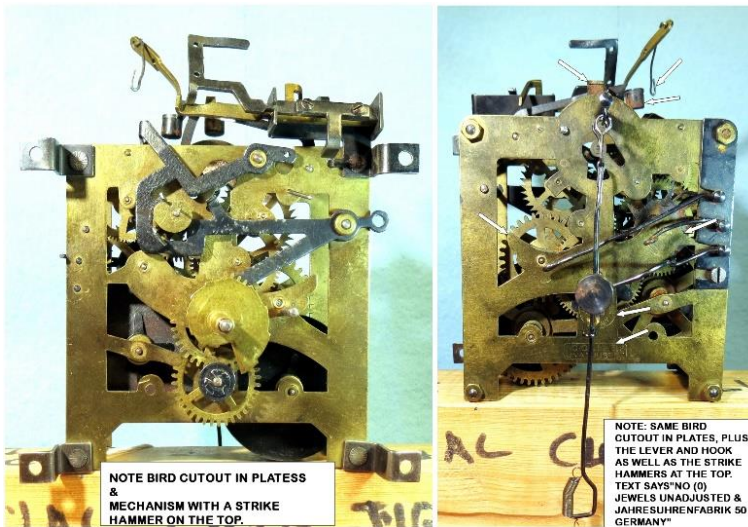
Lou

Our next meeting will be WAIT FOR LATER NEWS

JULY PICNIC MEETING

With COVID 19 at a low end, Adams County, Pennsylvania, the picnic was a GO for those in good health to attend. Everyone in attendance (about 18) appeared to be healthy and had been informed ahead of time, if sick or temperature, etc. do not come, it will not be held against you, if you do not show.

There were one or two that did not show but two or three extras that did. It all worked out well. Al and Shirley Bush's house is attached to Rhonda and Guy Stran's house, which made large open space for all attendance inside as well as plenty of outside space. The members that attended wore facemasks and maintain social distances. Sample bottles of hand sanitizer were passed out and additional facemasks were available if needed. Al Bush gave a tour of his outstanding clock collection and workshop, including a rare movement with brass mean Springs, a cuckoo clock just serviced and a timing test set up using the micro set tester. Members had the freedom to walk around on their own to



what some called an amazing museum of 2000 clocks and 7000 elephant collectibles that were well placed around the home. This was an accumulation of Al and Shirley's 30 years of collecting. Guy also had an assortment of clocks he has collected, which he also displayed and discussed with the members. Some people took advantage of the out-of-doors to take walks and give treats to the horses, sit and watch the ducks on the pond or just enjoy the view. Some people also enjoyed visiting the chickens while the dogs and cats found new friends.

The food was provided by LaCucinatalian Restaurant (717 – 633 – 5700 or online at www.lacucinatalian.com). The food received high ratings with many people going for seconds. And then the desserts which we all love, were an abundant selection of tasteful, mouthwatering sweets, and of course with ice cream, too. *Al, Shirley, Guy, and Rhonda*



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If you have an interest in Clocks, Watches or Horology, come join us at our next meeting Our Next Meeting

Thursday, (at this time still to be determined) at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR September, 2020

The program for this meeting will have our own **Ray Snouffe** as the speaker. He will be presenting a talk on a clock he is building for his son, Alex Who is also a member of our group and maintains our Web Site. I'll leave the details to Ray but I believe some mention was made of it at our last meeting. Come find out and hear the full story. It sounds very interesting, better come out and not miss it.

Our programs are of general interest to all and very informative. Plan to come join us for a pleasant evening with friends and fellow Horologists. Hopefully, We'll look forward to seeing you there. It is a social atmosphere where horological problems, solutions, history and finds are all shared, enjoyed and relished by all. 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. (You can go back for seconds or thirds or more in the food line. I usually make it in one or two trips.) We will be looking forward to seeing you there. Oh! If you have a horological problem, absolutely do not hesitate to ask for expert help. The room will be well saturated with them.

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@comcast.net by providing Wheeler Green with the information requested on the meeting reservation form or by Calling Wheeler 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 _____

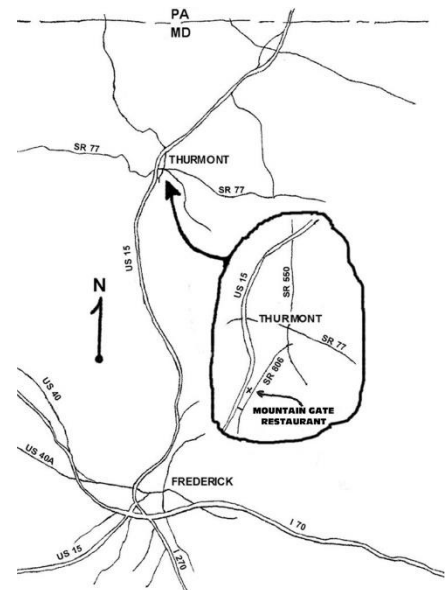
Number Coming _____ x \$17.00 = Total \$ _____

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, Mt. 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

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 waiter staff for us. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Chapter Dues for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will not be collected due to the pandemic The Annual dues is only \$8.00 (cost unchanged since 2007), but for those in good standing dues will not be collected this year. **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 Sparco505@comcast.net or call me at 301-801-5005 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.

Wheeler Green

Attention:

It is important also to **keep Wheeler Green advised** of any change in your membership information, address changes, etc. He can be reached at Sparco505@comcast.net or 301-801-5005
Please Note: **We cannot keep you informed if you don't keep us informed.** Thank you in advanced.

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 is only \$8.00 payable to Free State Chapter 141. Please send your check with this completed application to:

Please make checks payable to Free State Chapter 141 and mail to
Wheeler Green, 13619 Harrisville Road, Mt Airy, MD 21771-7923
PHONE: 301-801-5005 Gmail: Sparco505@comcast.net

Horological Tips & Talks

Dan S Clock –DS001/W/01 99 -- Shop Notes



Notes: movement is REGULA 28.5 CM; It's sec Per Beat = 0.585475; This is 6723.00 Beats Per Hour (BPH)

Background: I understand this clock was purchased in The Black Forest of Germany around the end WW II and has been in storage for some time because it was not working. On primary examination the clock appears to be in good physical shape. There is minor damage to the case. It's missing a rail post and one porch support post to the roof has a gap at the top. Oil on the pivots looks dried and caked. Backplate on movement says, "Use only 859 clock oil" and I do not usually see caking of synthetic oils, thus it might have been oiled with a non-synthetic oil. Pivot ware appears to be minimal and they probably will not need to be replaced at this time. It does not appear to have been run or oiled for a long time. The dried oil around the pivots will be removed in the cleaning. Since it would not run, it was not possible to check its operational characteristics or to evaluate and determine operation of the complications so we proceeded to remove the

movement. (I define complications as those additions to the timekeeping, such as the girl ringing a bell, the cuckoo bird operation, the music box and the dance band as complications added to the timekeeping.) The evaluation was able to show no significant impediments to the clock running and keeping time. Until or unless I find there is a problem in synchronizing the complications, I will assume they are operable and have not been disturbed. Several people do not like to work on such clocks with these complications as extra effort is sometimes required to synchronize them. It can be time-consuming if someone has previously disassembled the movement and has not properly reassembled it. On a number of occasions when I worked on a cuckoo clock. I found that people were not careful in disassembly and reassembly so that the gears, striking and the operation of the complications are not synchronized properly. This often requires removing a gear and advancing it or retarding it by one or more teeth to produce the correct synchronization. So many people do not like to spend their time juggling gear teeth.

Since the wheels appear to have little play in the pivots or ware on the teeth, I have assumed that the amount of running time on the clock and wear on the pivots is not extensive plus the fact it has also been in storage, or not running much of its life. (I decided to wait and see If the performance shows poorly after I have completed the restoration, then I will back up and recheck each pivot and polished them as required. The fact that they are supposed to have been oiled with synthetic oil, allows some degree of confidence that the wear on the pivots is small enough to not require polishing at this time. (After cleaning in the ultrasonic tank, I still can have the option to disassemble and touchup the pivots if needed.)

In the case of this clock, we finally got the movement running before cleaning and we could now test some of the complications and before oiling it. Using the beat test amplifier connected to it at first, it would hardly run. When it did, you could hear the scrapes, grinds and clanks which were overwhelming. By applying oil sparingly first to one point and then another, it slowly quieted down to a tick-tock. Oiling some of the levers and pins improved, it further. Things were looking good enough that I assessed I would not have to disassemble the movement and give it an extensive cleaning.

There is one item I would like to address relative to cleaning the assembled movement in the ultrasonic cleaner. Cleaning solutions usually contain some amount of ammonia which can react with the brass in the movement plates and gears, causing corrosion if not properly rinsed off. Normally that is not a problem since the cleaning solution usually gets in and out of all parts of the movement very easily. In the case of a cuckoo clock, or similar clocks, with the pull chain winding mechanism, some compartments in the winding mechanism are not freely exposed, so the solution can not readily go in, do its job and be flushed out. For this reason, I hesitate to submerge such assembled movements in the cleaning solution containing the ammonia without taking special precautions. My technique involves using compressed air to blow out any cleaning solution remaining in any cavities associated with the winding chain wheels after the cleaning bath. Then I rinse it with running water and blow it dry again and proceed to run it through the rinse solution and blow it out again, thereby removing/neutralizing any remaining cleaning fluid. Last, I proceed to dry the movement in my oven with airflow at 100°F. My past experience has shown this to work satisfactorily even though I still prefer to not have to use this technique.

Getting back to the clock, it has inscribed on the movement plate, "SYNT oil 859". (This amounts to an instruction to use only synthetic 859 clock oil on the movement.) I normally use Synthetic 5W-30 Mobil 1 oil. Its viscosity is rated as 90 at 70°. This recommendation came from a friend and fellow NAWCC member, Stephen Nelson, who worked in that field and found that Vienna regulators cleaned and oiled with this type of oil lasted 10 years and still had a meniscus of oil around the pivot in the bushing after that time. It showed staying power and no hardening or caking of the oil. Since he informed me of this, I have used this oil on all my clocks with good results.

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After the cleaning, rinsing and drying, the movement was connected to the beat amplifier and only a faint scraping or squeaking was audible. This all immediately disappeared, when a minuscule drop of oil was placed on the pivots. When the oiling was complete. No noise was audible from the tester amplified signal. Also, now the movement could be adjusted to the specified 6723 beats per hour once the movement was leveled. Also, the complications drive connections were all checked to function but could be finalized until it was in its case.

Next, we mounted the movement in the clock case and leveled it. For the final testing, the movement had to be mounted back in the clock so it was level and the clock itself was level when it was hanging on the wall. **The case must be level on the wall in order for it to keep good time.** My test stand simulates the wall condition. This is a good time to point out that the clock with its weights are not light and must be well supported. At the same time, it must be mounted high enough off of the floor to allow a good “fall” distance for the weights. (**ALWAYS PULL DOWNWARD**, not away from the wall when winding the clock. Pulling away from the wall when winding, could pull the clock off of the wall!). Caution, when you pull down to wind the clock, you, also, must be careful not to pull the clock position out of level. (If you find this to be a problem, we can purchase stabilizer brackets from the parts store.)

SOME MAINTENANCE HINTS. (Do’s and don’ts.)

You can use an artist’s paint brush to dust and sweep the stairs and yard. Decorations are glued down, but enough force could pop something off.

When setting time always move hands clockwise. If you do not want to stand there while you cycle the hands and wait for all the strikes and bands to play, you can fall back an hour by stopping the clock for that time and starting it back up one hour later.

Oiling should not be required for about five years and maybe not for 7 to 10 years, but it probably should be checked because it depends somewhat on environment, dust, moisture, etc.

Cleaning is usually recommended every two years, but I feel you should not have to do so for about six or seven years unless it is used in a dusty environment. With present day air conditioning and synthetic oils, I suspect one might get 10 years use on one oiling, but the clock should be checked every couple of years. I gave the owner a servicing package including some photos and test data for reference. It might be useful to a future repairman. I have also included some historical background on cuckoo clocks. The name of an interesting reference book is “BLACK FOREST CLOCKMAKER AND THE CUCKOO CLOCK” by Carl Kochmann.

Al Bush 2020-05

Just a couple views of the tour from Al’s Clocks and Shirley’s Elephants Collection

