

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 46 Issue 4 May 2021



Forty years ago, pretty much to the day, I decided to leave my undergrad degree in music education unfinished and move to Sioux City, Iowa. There I was to study piano tuning and repair at a community college. My parents were furious, friends thought I was crazy, and I was terrified myself. It took every ounce of courage I could muster to pack my 67 Catalina with everything that it would carry and drive halfway across the country to a place where I knew no one. I had a slow start to a career in piano tuning. I drove a truck for three years along with part time jobs on the side while I tried to break into the piano trade. In the Cincinnati, OH area where I lived, there were so many established piano technicians, many of which had worked and trained at the Baldwin factory. They had long lists of accomplishments and experience plus their names were well known in the area. How on earth could I possibly establish myself as a beginner in the middle of all these great technicians?

I began to work with a piano technician named Bob Mollard. He introduced me to the PTG and took me to meetings. My first major concert tuning experience was with Ben McKlveen who taught me what to prioritize and what to expect. Felix Long, who started out as a chip tuner at the Baldwin factory to become their premier concert technician took me under his wing. Sandy West became my boss at Baldwin and my mentor as I took all three PTG tests and became an RPT. Jack and Sally Krefting pushed me farther than I knew I was capable. So many people were there to help.

That is what I love about the PTG. Far from other competitive careers where people jealously guard their experience for fear of losing business to competitors, PTG members love to share knowledge and to help those just beginning. At any meeting you will see seasoned technicians doing whatever they can to share what they have learned. I owe everything I have learned professionally to hundreds of colleagues, PTG conventions, regional seminars, factory training seminars, and especially chapter meetings.

I encourage each of our members to make a commitment to attending meetings whenever possible. Now I am the old guy at the meeting and there are so many people out there thirsting to learn what I know. Now I can give back the time and training that my mentors gave to me. We have a responsibility to help others professionally. It's what we do.

Chris Purdy, RPT

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Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

The meeting was hosted online over Zoom by Kim Hoessly

Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Andrew Kovaleski, Walter Bagnall, Christopher Purdy, Wayne Strautman, Mark Ritchie, Maggie Jusiel, David Chadwick, Justin Swain, David Stang

Treasurer's Report:

\$1851.04

Old Business:

After David Chadwick's resignation from the office of president, the following slate of officers was proposed and approved by the chapter:

President - David Stang

Vice President - Chris Purdy, RPT

Treasurer - Ron Kenreich

Secretary - Andrew Kovaleski

Imm. Past Pres. - David Chadwick, RPT

David S. and Chris will work together to perform the role of president until September, after which point David will assume the office in full.

Walter Bagnall has been spearheading an update of the chapter bylaws to reflect changes made in the PTG National bylaws. The updated document has been emailed to the members of the chapter, and a vote will be held at the next meeting over their acceptance. A 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership (17 members), in person or by proxy, is required for adoption of these bylaws. *If you will be unable to attend the May meeting, please contribute to the vote by designating another member who will be present as your proxy.*

New Business:

The 63rd Annual PTG Convention and Technical Institute will be held from August 4-7, 2021 in Orlando, FL. The chapter needs to nominate a delegate for representation at the convention, which will most likely take place at the next chapter meeting. A motion was passed to maintain the delegate's stipend at \$500, to be possibly raised at the discretion of the board in the case that related expenses are significantly greater than \$500.

Andrew Kovaleski visited First Financial Bank and added his name as a signer to the chapter bank account. The chapter's signers at the bank are now Mark Ritchie, Ron Kenreich, and Andrew Kovaleski.

The Columbus PTG June meeting will be **in person** at the new Solich Piano location in Easton. Dinner will be provided, and the date and time are below:

Tuesday, June 15

6:30 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting

4194 Easton Gateway Drive

Columbus, OH 43219

Thanks to Chris Purdy for organizing, and to Thomas Solich for hosting and providing dinner.

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Mark Ritchie - Piano Tools Auction

Sunday, May 16

1:00 PM Arrival - 2:00 PM Auction Begins

6262 State Route 605 S, Westerville, OH 43082



After nearly 50 years of being involved with pianos I have decided to take an extended sabbatical, one might call it a retirement, but pianos will always be part of my life. I intend to have a shop sale of many tools, parts, and probably a collection of dust. I will also have materials from our late member Tom Ruff. I will suggest that people should bring some boxes or bags, as there are lots of smaller items. Please share this announcement with any who may be interested. You may park on either side of the driveway to the right or left of the split. Try to avoid the grass especially if wet. .

Here are just a few items to be offered - some tagged, some auctioned. Starrett micrometer, pinning tools, Hold Heat hot pot & chamber, key easing pliers, tension gauge, Strate Mate, hammer hanging jig, pin setter, wire gauge, shank reducer. dead blow hammer, Hart damper tool, duckbill pliers, regulating tools, parts, hand tools, power tools, out of production parts, and many freebies.

Mark Ritchie, RPT
ritchiepiano@gmail.com
614-855-1243



A Message from Chris Purdy

I am happy to announce that I am offering piano technician training at Ohio University beginning this summer. I have taught college students for many years but through the Athens Community Music School program here at OU, I can now invite others to campus without the expense of enrolling in the university. Training will be completely flexible to focus on your needs. Meeting time and frequency is also very flexible. Registration fee is \$10. Your only other commitment is the expense of your tools, time, and the commute. Please contact me by email or text for details!

Chris Purdy, RPT
purdy@ohio.edu
(740) 590-3842

A Chapter Technical on Vertical Piano Disassembly

Friday, May 28

4:00 PM

1179 South Galena Rd, Galena, OH 43021

On May 28th Bryan Hartzler will host the chapter at his home. Kim Hoessly has a Baldwin Hamilton with a cracked plate that is beyond repair. She proposed a technical on disassembly, usable parts salvage, recycling of unwanted parts, and Bryan proposed a fine bonfire to send off the remains to that big showroom in the sky. It will be an informal, hands-on event. All are welcome to take any salvaged parts they would like for their shop or for exotic piano themed art projects... It is also a great excuse for us to gather in person and have a relaxing afternoon to celebrate spring as our meetings wind down for this season.



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

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- Officers -

President	David Stang
Vice-President	Chris Purdy, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
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Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, May 18
7:30pm

**Meeting will be hosted
online from the PTG
National Zoom
account**

**Link to join meeting
will be emailed prior
to the meeting**

Disclaimer:

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