

From the Editor Mark Ritchie

My interest in pianos started pretty early can you pick out your editor in this photo? This was the best April Fools joke I could come up with and I guess it's on me!



Meeting Minutes

Minutes Tuesday March 21, 2006

We want to thank Mark and Marilyn for hosting the meeting with wonderful refreshments and a very informative technical.

Meeting called to order @7:40PM

Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Dean Nedvecki, Chris Altenburg, Don Carle, Ron Kenreich, Matt Scavo, Marilyn Ritchie, Mark Ritchie, Victor Wolf, Mike Varrone, Ben Wiant, Mike Hill

Treasure's Balance: \$1,369.11

New Business:

PTG store is online and open for business.

Chapter dues reimbursement will be sent out April 1, 2006.

Early bird deadline for convention registration is May 31, 2006.

Marketing the RPT- PTG will sponsor a booth at the MTNA convention and swap ad space in the magazines. Bob Russell will facilitate the booth.

Ben McKlveen is our guest speaker for the April meeting. Please note that it has been changed to **Wednesday April 19, 2006 at The Piano Gallery.**

Ben cannot make it on Tuesdays due to rehearsals. The topic will be on tuning and tuning stability.

Matt Scavo has attended the required number of meetings and a vote was put forth to accept him as an associate. It passed. Welcome Matt!

Old Business:

Dwight and David will be taking their technical exams this Friday. Good Luck!!

Business Meeting Adjourned @ 8:05pm.

Butts and Flanges

The bidding started as Mark Ritchie, our resident auctioneer, held an upright hammer extractor. This is not the type of tool that will attract the attention of stately attired people, nor was it a bunch of middle-aged technicians fighting for tools. We enjoyed the opportunity to bid on tools from the estate of the late Ronald Guth. The tools are wonderful... they don't make 'em like that anymore. Mark Ritchie missed his calling... great job Mark and thanks to the Columbus Chapter of the PTG. The top bidder settled at \$46.00, and the auction yielded \$134.60, the disbursement of the funds is yet to be determined.

Technical:

The majority of the keys that come in for keytop replacement also need to be re-bushed. The key frame/ keybed is the foundation of all action regulation. If the keys are not leveled and bushings are old or faulty, nothing is going to be regulation-correct in the action. A loss of power and control will result. Key leveling will be very difficult as well. Replacing key bushings also facilitates proper friction of the keys. A customer that asks for a "heavier feel" may find keys re-bushed as a portion of the solution. Various techniques for removing and installing the bushings were discussed. Marilyn demonstrated a professional way to do it. A detailed handout was provided. Please see Mark or Marilyn for a copy. It has a lot of valuable information on it such as; sizing cauls, bushing cloth, glue that is used and cleaning. A table of key pin sizes for most pianos is included in this handout. Wonderful and very informative job by Mark and Marilyn Ritchie.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Mike Varrone



The bidding was fast and furious at the April meeting. The Butts & Flanges session was a special auction of parts and tools from the estate of Ronald Guth.

Do we have tuning classes? Yes! We have tuning classes taught by some of the finest tuners in the country, as well as in the world. Come to the 2006 Annual PTG Convention June 21-25th

First we have **“If I Had a Hammer”**—a basic class in hammer technique, the foundation of solid tuning. While this class is basic, (and I have been tuning for 50 years) I still would personally attend this class because it would be a bad day when I could not learn something from **Jack Stebbins**.

Then, we have **Ward Guthrie** teaching, **“Where Are Those Beats?”** This class covers beats, coincident partials, proofs, and temperaments.

Kent Swafford will teach, **“Turning an OK Tuning into a Great Tuning,”** a class which deals with refinement techniques necessary for the finest quality tunings.

Kathy Smith will teach **“Temperament Troubleshooting,”** how to efficiently refine the temperament without chasing one’s tail around and around.

Ed Foote has a class on **“Selling the Other Temperaments,”** a presentation of the “other” temperaments values, both musical and economic.

Bill Bremmer will perform a **Tuning Concert**, in which he demonstrates innovative temperament and octave tuning.

We have electronic tuning classes. **Dean Reyburn** will teach his class on **“Introduction to Advanced Reyburn Cyber Tuner,”** analyzing inharmonicity, creating smoother transitions, better tunings, and quick and accurate pitch raises.

Dave Carpenter and his **“Tuning With the Verituner”** will demonstrate how to perform pitch raises, fine-tuning, setting standard pitch, temperament, and much more!

Robert Scott will teach a class, **“Tuning With Tune Lab,”** measuring inharmonicity, adjusting the tuning curve, Auto Note Switching, Phase Display and Spectrum Display, saving files, non-standard pitches, calibration, historical temperaments, and more.

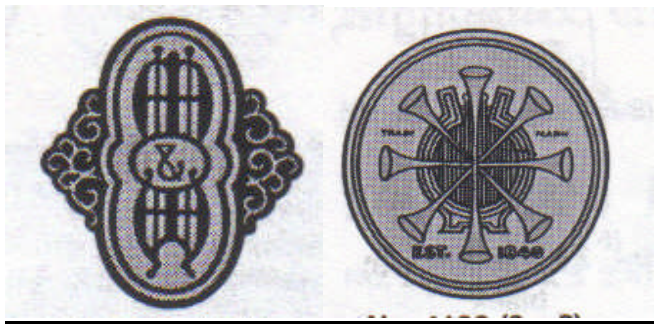
Finally, we will have **Dr. Al and Paul Sanderson** teaching **“Customized Tunings with Aural/Sat III Method.”** Under discussion will be customizing tunings, Double-Octave Beat (DOB) control, compensating for gaps in the piano scale, and overcoming the Virgil Smith Effect. (This class is worth the time just to find out what that is!)



Marilyn Ritchie demonstrates key bushing techniques to Chapter members, from left : Victor Wolfe, Mike Varrone, Don Carle and Kim Hoessly

Name the Piano

Here are three easy ones - all from the old American Piano Co. Can you name the pianos these decals represented? Bonus points for the Latin translation on the first decal.



Last Months Question :

What piano manufacture supplied 88 grand pianos to Super Bowl XXII for a half time performance called "Something Grand"?

The answer to last months *Name the Piano* is the Kimball Piano Company. It was January 31, 1988 in San Diego, CA. (Washington 42 -vs- Denver 10) The featured performers were Chubby Checker and the Rockettes. There were 88 grand pianos laid out like a keyboard, if I remember correctly, 52 white grands and 36 ebony grands. These pianos bore a special plaque on the inside rim saying they were used at Super Bowl XXII and distributed to Kimball dealers around the country. There were no costume malfunctions.

The following request is via Doug Brandt; you may want to speak with Doug as well regarding these.

Wanting to sell:

1893 Chickering upright piano. ser # 77166. Ivories intact. Two ivories chipped on edge. restrung 15 years ago. Original pin block , new oversized pins. I removed all paint, not varnished yet walnut veneer. Very nice Chickering sound. Holds a tuning well. Only nine single bass strings. then 8 double bass strings. followed by 14 triple bass strings. The treble strings are single tied up to 2nd F# above middle C. New damper felt and damper springs. Original hammers. \$1200.00

Store:

Looking for a good home to store a Cabaret studio size upright Player piano. vintage 1982. Excellent condition internally and externally. Light oak finish. Player is electric or foot operated. Piano has a decent sound. Can keep for at least a year. If you can split moving costs and keep in tune I will be happy. Not looking to sell. Just need a home for this instrument until I have a space for it.

contact Chayim Mehl
chayimlife@sbcglobal.net
614-267-0505

*from The Voicing Tool / Wichita Chapter
Laws of the Trade...*

The Law of Inverse Proportion:

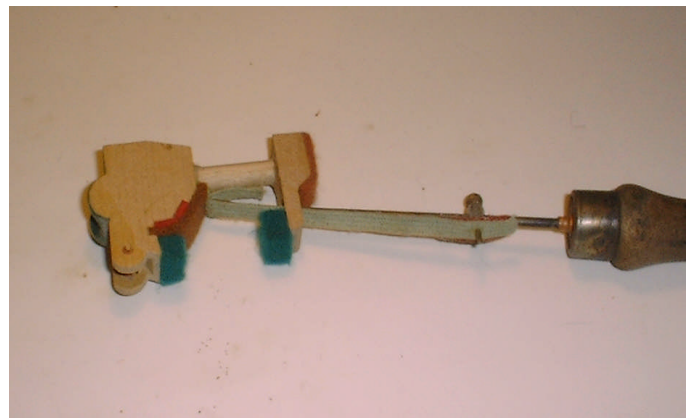
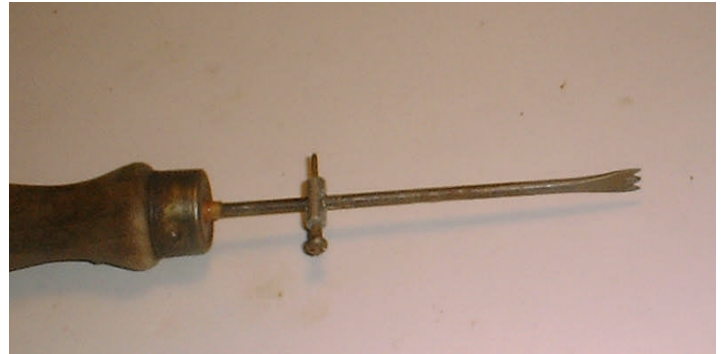
The price and/or size of the part or tool you left in your shop and can't finish the service call without is inversely proportional to the amount of time, expense and distance required to return to the shop and get it.

(Ask me how I know!)

Tom Seay, RPT Austin, TX

More Tools from Tom Harr**Bridle Strap Tool**

This is an idea published in PTJ years ago so I can't give proper attribution but I've always liked it so much I want to pass it along. Construction is very simple: flatten one end of a 6 in. piece of coat hanger wire and file three very sharp points in it, a tiny trident or miniature pickle fork with short tines. The other piece is an aluminum damper head insert with the threaded hole all the way through. Superglue a center pin in it (cut off to convenient length). File a flat on one side of the wire parallel to the swedge, slip the insert on the wire and fix it in a handle. Now you can place the hole in the bridle tape on the pin, adjust the insert to the desired length, hook the tape on the tines, dab a *small* amount of glue on the free end of the tape and insert it through the hole in the back-catch. Tease the glued end into place on the bottom of the back-catch shank and withdraw the tool. I like this better than cork-tips (except for field repairs) or using tacks.

**Tuning Hammer Grip**

This is simply a 2 ½ in. dia. wooden apple from the crafts department which has been bored out to about 1 ¾ in. with a 1 ¼ in. forstner bit (do this in a drill press). It slips on the end of the tuning hammer handle and saves hand cramps or a big red welt on your palm after a long day of pitch raising. If the fit is a bit loose insert a paper shim.

**False Beat Killer**

I'm not sure the picture shows this clearly enough to be useful, but it is a length of ¼ in. brazing rod given a four sided taper on one end with a notch at the point. The other end fits a combo handle. About an inch of the end is bent 20° or so. Put the notch on the offending string and slide it down to the bridge pin and bump the end of the handle with the heel of your palm. Often you can see the string move or even hear it click. Don't hit it so hard grove the bridge! The reason for bronze or brass is because it is softer than the string. A steel screwdriver blade used this way can cut the string.





The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Mark Ritchie, Editor

Upcoming Events

Regular meetings are on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 PM

Next Meeting **Please take note / Change of day for April Meeting !!!**

Wednesday April 19th at 7:30 PM

The Piano Gallery 2829 Festival Lane Dublin OH in the Festival Shopping Center
the corner of State Rte 161 & Sawmill Rd

A tuning technical presentation with nationally recognized instructor Ben McKlveen

April 6th-9th Central West Regional Seminar / Boulder , CO

contact : Trevor Nelson 303-527-0552

June 21-25 PTG Annual Convention & Institute

Hyatt Regency Rochester, NY details at ptg@ptg.org

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