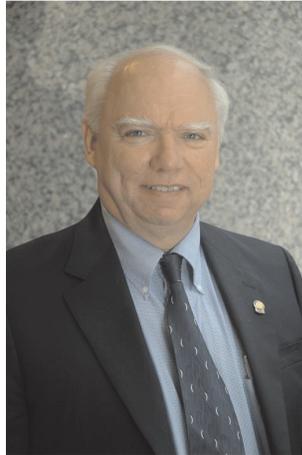


**RICHARD BITTNER, RPT and Regional VP**  
**visits our chapter**



Richard Bittner and his wife, Jan, both RPTs, were the guests of honor at our March Chapter meeting. See p. 3 for highlights from their technical presentation.

**EXAMAPALOOZA**

May 15 and 16, 2009  
Cedarville University

If you have been putting off taking either the RPT Technical or Tuning Exam, then come to Cedarville University and take an exam or two.

Registration: Send exam fee of \$180 to the Home Office with a note explaining that you will be taking the exam at Examapalooza. When we receive confirmation of payment you will be contacted to schedule an exam slot. Exam slots are on a first come first served basis, so hurry and register today!

Technical Exam contact is Kim Hoessly RPT, 614-326-3630 or [khoessly@columbus.rr.com](mailto:khoessly@columbus.rr.com)

Tuning Exam contact is Doug Atkins RPT, 937-766-7566 or [atkinsd@cedarville.edu](mailto:atkinsd@cedarville.edu)

CTE training will also be available at Examapalooza contact Doug Atkins, RPT for more info.



APRIL 23 - 26 2009

**INTRODUCING THE 2009 PTG MARC**

**Unique and Interesting All-Day Seminars, including**

Restoration: The Unseen Techniques  
Under the Lid: The Art and Craft of the Concert Piano Tech  
Your Money or Your Life! A trade success seminar  
RPT Technical Exam Prep  
Polyester Finish Repair

**New and Notable Classes and Instructors, including**

Tuning for Stability and Speed with Steve Brady, RPT  
Piano Crafting in the 21st Century with Arlan Harris, RPT  
The Aural Art and Science with Brian Capleton PhD  
Composite Part Installation with Bruce Clark  
The Variable Leverage Piano Action with D. Stanwood, RPT

[www.ptgmarc.org](http://www.ptgmarc.org)

# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

## **MEETING MINUTES March 17, 2009**

The meeting was held at Wesley Chapel, Ben Wiant's home. Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Ron Kenreich, David Stang, Chris Altenburg, Victor Wolfe, Ben Wiant, Richard Miller, Chris Purdy, Michael O'Neill, Chris Burgett, and guests, Richard and Jan Bittner, RPTs, from the Detroit Chapter. Richard is our Regional Vice-President.

Thank you kindly to Ben and Jon for hosting the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We presently hold \$84.95 in checking and \$2000 face value in CDs. Recent expenses include \$320 for the purchase of a new Renner action model for the chapter, and \$110 for our Web site hosting service provider.

### **President's Report**

Chris Burgett will be a new member of the PTG as soon as his paperwork arrives at the national office.

### **Committee Reports**

Testing committee:

#### **Examapalooza at Cedarville University:**

May 15-16, up to 2 tuning and 2 tech exams each day. Jointly sponsored by the Dayton and Columbus Chapters. Contact person Doug Atkins: [atkinsd@cedarville.edu](mailto:atkinsd@cedarville.edu)

### **Old Business**

Chris Purdy said he would check to see if he would be able to serve as our chapter's delegate to the 2009 Council at the Convention.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

April 21: David Stang on Harpsichords at First Congregational Church

May 19: Henderson's Piano Gallery, Technical TBA.

## **Post-Meeting News from Kim**

Chris Purdy indicated that he is able to serve as our delegate. Chris has been making an extra effort to come up from Athens to attend the chapter meetings and I think he will do a good job of representing us.

I thought I should let the chapter know that information so we could go ahead and send in his credentials to the Home Office by the deadline of March 30. Chris will then be able to receive the Delegate's book by next month and we will be able to go over it at the May meeting and instruct him on how we'd like the chapter to vote at council. If anyone has any concerns about this, please let me know via email. Having been a delegate, I know it does take some extra work on his part and I'd like to thank him for doing this for the chapter. It is important for us to be represented at Council.

## **Tech Tips from Chris Altenburg**

A couple of things I have noted recently:

When testing the sostenuto pedal on a grand piano with real sostenuto, test it for a number of notes or chords across the keyboard as well as making a global test. Depress the damper pedal first, hold it down, then depress the sostenuto pedal next. The correct result is that all the dampers are held up when the damper pedal is released but the sos pedal remains depressed. This global test however is no guarantee that individual notes will function properly. Test sostenuto action for individual notes also. If individual notes fail, check the position of the sostenuto bar in the back action. Readjust as needed. If dampers don't seem to dampen well on a grand, check closely that the bank of dampers as a unit, say the bass dampers, lift straight up from and fall straight down onto their respective wires. On both older and new pianos (an older Kimball grand and new chinese pianos) the bass dampers are found to be misaligned from the factory. The fix is whatever you choose, up to and including removing and realigning the damper bushing board itself.

# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

## **Technical Presentation: Controlling Friction**

Richard and Jan Bittner brought and demo'd a few of their favorite friction controlling techniques at the March meeting. They prefer the word "treatment" to "lubricant" because friction can be treated in a variety of ways besides just lubricating.

Here are some pointers that the Bittners shared.

Before lubricating anything, make sure the item is clean. Grind and polish keypin scratches and gouges if you find them. The Jim Coleman pin-cleaner drill bit, which is essentially a cylinder with felt punchings inside, is good for polishing. Scotchbrite is good for cleaning damper wires and other small metal parts. Old graphite, wherever you find it, should be removed with naphtha.

Spray dry lube such as McLube mold release has many uses: Key pins, capstans, damper wires, repetition levers, return springs, and glide bolts. It's even good for spraying the entire keybed and keyframe. Sprays with silicone such as WD-40 should always be avoided because it can dissolve glue.

Pro-tek is another product with many uses: Spring-to-wood interfaces, action centers, and pedal pivot points. Richard has found through experience that Korean action centers respond to a mixture of naphtha & mineral oil, while Japanese centers respond to a mixture of naphtha & silicone. An 8-to-1 to 10-to-1 proportion in each case.

"ProFelt" is a new product that Richard likes for rehabilitation of bushings and other felt parts. It is basically a mixture of alcohol & water with a little bit of lubricant.

Knuckles can be treated with needling to reduce noise if they seem hard, then treated with teflon powder.

A spring-tension gauge for measuring the resistance of action parts is a nice tool to have. Hammer flanges and whippens should measure at 4 - 6 grams, while jacks should be 1 - 3 grams.

Thank you very much to Richard and Jan for coming down to visit us!



# The Buckeye Backcheck

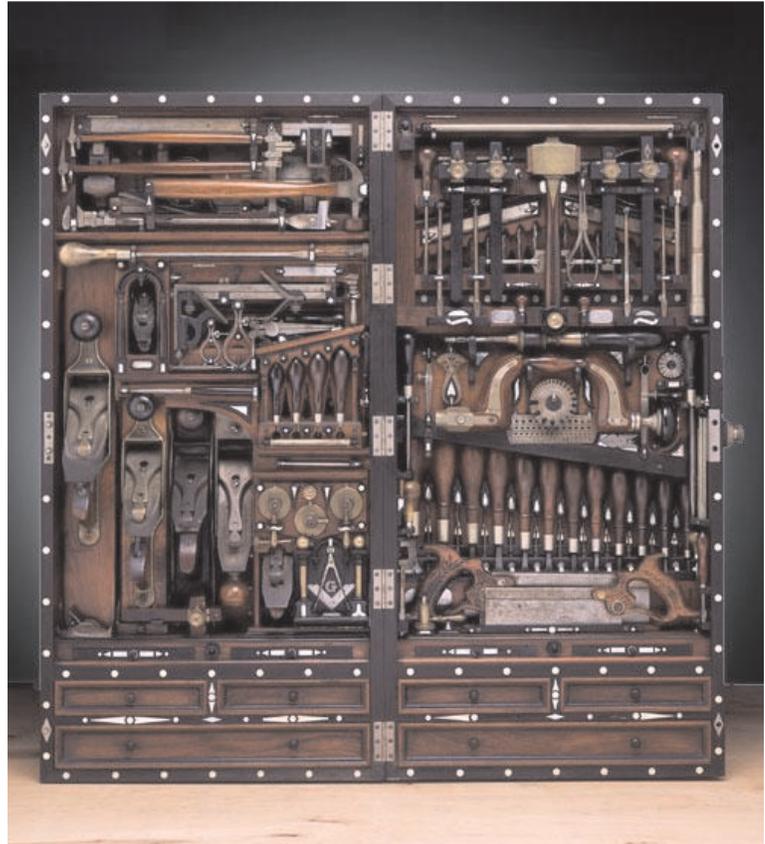
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## POOLE BOX

This incredible box of tools for repairs of pianos has been created and refined during 30 years by Henry Studley who worked for Smith Organ Co., and then the Poole Piano Company of Quincy, Massachusetts.

Using various types of wood, he managed to make a true work-of-art that contains over 300 tools. It is made of mahogany, rosewood, walnut, ebony and mother of pearl, materials that were probably removed from the Piano Poole as scrap.

Studley died in 1925, after having been retired for 80 years. The case was loaned by Studley grandson, Peter Hardwick, as part of an exhibition in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, until it was bought by a private collector and current owner continues to lend to the Smithsonian.



*from hangfirebooks.blogspot.com "Oddball Item of the Week"*

## FROM THE WEB

*The following is excerpted from my friend David Dean Bottrell's blog [www.partsandlabor.tv](http://www.partsandlabor.tv). He is a successfull writer, and I think these words apply to just about any profession that requires craft and creativity, including ours. - Ed.*

"...It finally occurred to me that ... anything that emerges from my imagination is not uniquely my own; but is instead drawn from a vast well of human experience that shapes and defines us all. Much like life, the rules of creativity change daily. It's daunting, but not impossible to figure out. For every bucket I take from the well, I simply try to put one back. ...

I guess faith is an inherent belief that you're on the right path – even though that path can sometimes lead you to the edge of a rather big cliff that requires jumping. Usually it all boils down to a good honest assessment of what you're actually good at – and then following the trail of bread crumbs until you eventually find the loaf.

I remember seeing Bette Midler interviewed once. Ms. Midler was saying that for her, being creative was a bizarre combination of brazenly believing that you were the greatest while at the same time, realizing that you're probably not; that you could always be better. Faith is the pendulum that swings between these two opposites. If achieved, it will keep you going and if nurtured, it will keep you honest too."



# The Buckeye Backcheck

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[www.ptgcolumbus.org](http://www.ptgcolumbus.org)

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

**President** Kim Hoessly, RPT  
**Vice-President** Chris Altenburg, RPT  
**Treasurer** Ron Kenreich  
**Secretary** David Stang

*Contributions and pictures for  
the Buckeye Backcheck and the  
web page are always welcome,  
(even if they are only periph-  
erally related to pianos)!*

*- David*



*"If you have a better idea for making a talking piano, I'm all ears."*

## Upcoming Events

### Chapter Meetings

Tuesday April 21, 2009, 7:30pm  
First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St.  
Park in the lot at the NE corner of the building.  
Program: David Stang on harpsichords

Tuesday May 19, 2009, 7:30pm  
Henderson's Piano Gallery

### Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

April 23-26, 2009  
Harrisburg, PA

### EXAMAPALOOZA

May 15 and 16, 2009  
Cedarville University  
Contacts: Doug Atkins, Kim Hoessly

### Annual Convention and Institute

July 15 - 19, 2009  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Visit [www.ptg.org/conv/2009](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2009)  
Bookmark it and check often for updates.

Thank you to Kim Hoessly and Doug Brandt for their suggestions and contributions!

This newsletter was created using the open-source program *Scribus* running on the Linux/Ubuntu operating system.

#### Disclaimer:

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Comments, articles, and advertising requests may be sent to the editor.

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