



# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*  
Volume 35 Issue 3 April 2010



## PHIL WINS DAMPP-CHASER SYSTEM



Bob Grubb presents Phil Walters with a Dampp-Chaser system which he won in our drawing at the March Chapter meeting. Phil said it will definitely be put to good use.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I love April in Paris, I love April in Columbus, I love April just on general principle. I love the spring, it's the start of so many good things, like warmer weather and planning my garden. I planted peas last weekend (first time I've ever gotten them in even close to St. Patrick's Day!) and we're already figuring out what else will go in with the tomatoes and the jalapenos (Bud's gotta have lots of jalapenos and maybe some habeneras, although they are too hot for me).

It's a good time to plan head for those warmer days because if you take the time to plan ahead, you will see results later. Doug Neal, my instructor at Western Iowa Tech, was well known by his pupils to quote this axiom: Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. And planning ahead is very important in our business. One of the aspects of my planning is to try and plan the time and money to attend the PTG National convention whenever possible. Talk about planting seeds! You never know what you might learn there that will come in handy, maybe not the next week (although that's been known to happen) but down the road, something you picked up for your physical or mental toolbox at convention, will save you time and money. I know it's not cheap to attend and there is lost income, but I've never felt I wasted my time and there is so much information out there (and not just in the classes either). Plus, there's always the plus of that nice tax write off come next year. If not Vegas, then think about attending one of the regional conferences. They are a little smaller scale and because class sizes are also generally smaller, you get more one on one with the instructors. It's a win win for any technician to invest some time, energy, money and prior planning to attend. Continuing education is one of the main reasons to be involved in PTG.

So, plan ahead, plant some seeds and watch your piano knowledge and your business grow.

Kim

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## **Chapter Meeting Minutes March 16, 2010**

The meeting was held at Graves Piano & Organ.

Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Chris Altenburg, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Ben Wiant, Chris Burget, Bob Grubb, David Gorsuch, Phil Walters and new transfer member, Evan Bingham.

### **President's Report**

An officer's meeting was held previous to the chapter meeting.

Chapter Elections are coming in May. We will need a new president, vice-president and secretary. Members are strongly urged to consider serving. It's really not very much work!

Dean Nedvecki has dropped his membership this year but will remain a friend of the chapter.

We have a new chapter member, Evan Bingham RPT, who moved to Westerville from the Cleveland area, and previously spent much of his life in Washington state.

The PTG home office has produced a document called a Charter Certificate. This is a 2-page legal document which describes the relationship between the national organization and its local chapters. Its purpose is to clarify who we are to banks or other business entities.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We presently have \$284.06 in checking and \$2200.00 in CDs. We will be receiving \$750.00 from the home office for member dues.

### **Committee Reports**

Testing Committee

There was a suggestion that some of the exam prep sessions be held before chapter meetings for those interested.

### **Old Business**

PianoForte event

There is a ca. 1835 Pianoforte at the Orange-Johnson house, which they intend to have restored. It was suggested that once it is finished, we could hold a meeting there to have a look at it. This meeting could be open to a wider audience, including faculty and students from Otterbein and other colleges, and technicians from outside of Columbus.

### **New Business**

We are looking for a volunteer to be our chapter delegate to the national meeting this June.

Ben Wiant would like to pass on his duties as chapter librarian. The librarian's duties are simply to provide a place to store books, publications, and other items owned by the chapter so that they are reasonably available to chapter members. Note that we have a number of educational materials including exam study books, tapes, CDs, and action models.

A change was proposed to the standing rules for the Cliff Maurer Memorial Prize, which is a partial reimbursement to a member who passes all the RPT exams within 2 years. The proposal was to eliminate the 2 year deadline, but there was not enough interest in the proposal to bring it up for a vote.

### **Announcements**

The Mid-Atlantic regional meeting, PTG Music City, is this April 8-11 in Nashville.

### **Upcoming Meeting:**

April 20, Towers Hall, Otterbein College, on Square Grands presented by Ben Wiant.

Any college parking, except of course handicapped unless you have a sticker, is okay for our meeting. If anyone gets a ticket by mistake, Craig Johnson (music chair) says, "send it into our security office with an explanation that they were guests on campus."

Dean Nedvecki has a couple of action models he would be happy to loan out to associates preparing for the Tech Exams. Email him at dnedvecki [at] wideopenwest [dot] com.

### **Butts and Flanges**

A few words about worn and separated hammers. Backcheck leather can be used as a "retread" for completely worn hammers in a piano which the customer doesn't deem worth getting a replacement set for.

No one seemed to have much luck in re-gluing hammers where the felt separates from the wood (pac-man effect). Chris A. suggested wrapping some wire around them.

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## Technical Program

Bob Grubb led a discussion about climate control systems. A Damp-Chaser system placed into a vertical piano at Graves was used as an illustration. Installing these systems can be an income generator for us technicians as well as a great thing to have for the customer. Customers are often hesitant to spend the money, so Bob suggested a few tips on salesmanship. Damp-Chaser carries brochures and other sales materials that can be handed to customers. We can honestly tell the customer that a system really can keep the piano in better tune as well as inhibit climate-related deterioration of wood parts.



A few technical details to keep in mind were mentioned: be sure the hydrostat is installed the proper distance from the humidifier and dehumidifiers. In a grand, don't rely on velcro to keep it in position - use the screws to secure it. Be sure the baffle above the humidifier bucket clears the soundboard. In verticals, don't install the heater bars too close to the frame because there could be rattling. Also be sure to keep hoses and wires from coming in contact with the bars. And be sure to instruct the customer to use the water treatment product supplied by Damp-Chaser and *no other*. This product also contains electrolytes so that the water level and smart-bar electrical indicators work properly.

Thank you to the Damp-Chaser company for providing us with a system to give away and thank you very much to Bob for organizing and conducting the presentation!

## A Columbus Piano

*Here's a note from a Buckeye Backcheck reader.*

Hi from Cleveland.

I recently bought a "boudoir" (61 keys) upright which I happened to come across in a resale shop. I've been doing a lot of research on it. The serial number is 566 and it was made (in 1905 or so?) by The Columbus Piano Co. which in later years was The Lindenberg Piano Co.

I came across an article in Buckeye Backcheck by Tom Harr [Oct. 2008], where he mentions something about the Lindenberg mansion and a Lindenberg player piano. I thought that he, or anyone else for that matter, might be interested to know that I own one of his pianos. I've cleaned it up to the point of being able to work on it. I had the keys out and cleaned them up, and took out a lot of junk. I did some mechanical work. I had a local tech out, who told me it needed a couple major things before it would be able to be tuned. I'm going to have that work done, but not right now. Kind of costly---but worth preserving, I feel. For the moment, it looks nice against the wall. Down the line a bit, I know I'll be playing it. So, my main objective here was to let any piano people in your area know that one of their own is in good hands. Thanks for passing this along.

Regards, Gary Brown



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## FROM THE MUSIC TRADES AND NAMM 2010

### Rebirth Of A Classic

The famed Rhodes Piano, arguably one of the single most recorded instruments of all time, is once again available after a 25-year hiatus. The electric piano that helped define the popular music of the 60s, 70s, and 80s, went out of production in 1985, amidst a series of corporate missteps and a flood of low-cost digital keyboards. Yet in some respects it never really went away: millions of electronic keyboards sold over the past three decades have emulated the distinctive Rhodes tonal quality with a “jazz piano” voice. Now, the newly formed Rhodes Music Corp. is offering three new pianos that integrate the original Rhodes amplified metal tines with contemporary MIDI features and enhanced cosmetics. Joe Brandstetter, CEO of Rhodes Music, is convinced that the market is once again ready for the uniquely expressive qualities of his “real” Rhodes piano.

Like the originals, the new Rhodes pianos feature a traditional wooden keyboard, a conventional piano action, and the same amplified metal tines that produce the distinctive Rhodes tonal color.

While great pains have been taken to recapture the sound and feel of the original Rhodes piano, Brandstetter and his engineering team have carefully embraced contemporary technology. The entry-level Standard Series Rhodes, available in 73- and 88-note models, features a passive amplification, similar to the original Rhodes electronics. The Active series, also available in 73- and 88-note models, features a pre-amp with an active three-band EQ, along with a built-in tremolo for greater tonal control and expressiveness. The Active Series is also available with an optical MIDI-sensor strip that allows the keyboard to serve as a controller for any other electronic tone generators, and creates endless sonic layering options. All Rhodes pianos can be used with either a standard keyboard stand and an external sound system, or a Rhodes speaker platform. The keyboards are tailored to fit perfectly with the speaker platforms, creating a sleek visual appearance. Brandstetter sums up, “We’ve just updated a great

design with contemporary materials and technology to create a better product.”

During the 60's Jazz and pop musicians immediately seized on the Rhodes because it was the first keyboard that could be amplified without distortion to keep up with electric guitars, but still had the touch dynamics and expressiveness of an acoustic piano. The vast list of Rhodes piano users included Ray Charles, Chick Corea, Paul McCartney, and countless others.



Brandstetter is realistic about market challenges but remains optimistic. “We’re still small, but we have a unique product that has a special appeal. The Rhodes made a hugely positive contribution to the keyboard market in the past, and I’m sure it will do so again.”

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.musictrades.com/profile6.html>

### Perojilka delays production

Perojilka, the recently formed subsidiary of Toyota, has delayed the introduction of its new line of pianos. The delay was prompted by reports of sudden sustain in some of its pre-production dealer models.

Unintended sustain reportedly caused a piano in the San Diego area to crescendo up to nearly 90 decibels. Luckily there was someone nearby to instruct the player to stop playing and the piano eventually came to a safe silence. The player, who was visibly shaken afterwards claimed that there was no ability to damp the instrument at all. Engineers at Perojilka are studying the causes of this issue and are reportedly focusing on problems in the right pedal becoming stuck. They are confident in a prompt and cost-effective solution.



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

## ON THE INTERNET

Have a look at the Orange-Johnson House, home of a historical PianoForte at:

<http://www.worthington.org/about/orangejohnson.cfm>

Classical compersers weren't always serious. Listen to some musical jollity at

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125385794>

## 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*

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

April 20, 2010, 7:30pm  
Towers Hall 3rd floor  
Otterbein College, Westerville.  
Program: Square Grands by Ben Wiant  
Ok to park in any campus lot.

May 18, 2010, 7:30pm  
Chapter Officer Elections  
Place TBD

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

### Disclaimer:

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