

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 40 Issue 4 April 2015



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Please excuse in advance a little ramble about the logistics of taking care of chapter business.

I'm beginning to suspect that the reason my colleagues don't want to serve as president is that they don't want to have write these little articles for the newsletter. Of course, I'm not really sure who's reading them, so it's not very high pressure. Perhaps it's the getting up in front of the group and talking and leading the meetings. Again, not that hard. We're a pretty casual group and there are plenty of resources from the Home Office, not to mention local members who can offer assistance.

Why bring this up? Well, it would be great to have a little more participation in the leadership area of the chapter. We seem to be recycling officers for the most part instead of involving more of the membership. Now, granted, nobody seems to be standing in line to do these jobs (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and, though not an elected position, newsletter editor) and we sure appreciate those who are doing it. But, there's no time like the present to volunteer and step up if you have not done so previously. Being busy is not really an excuse as everyone is pretty darn busy near as I can tell. It is about priorities. I do realize, as does everyone, that some folks have obligations that absolutely preclude taking on this kind of responsibility, but all I'm asking is that members who have not ever served, or perhaps have not served in recent memory, consider doing so. It's not that hard, but it does take some time. We have chapter elections coming up next month in May, and while most of us currently serving are in the first year of what is often a 2 year term, I'm sure no one would object if someone else wanted to do this. It's all about people skills and that is a skill that is very handy in our business.

Kim Hoessly, RPT

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Chapter Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015

The meeting was held at Graves Piano & Organ Co.

Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Chris Burget, John Schmoll, Chris Altenburg, Ben Peters, Mark Ritchie, David Stang.

President's Report:

Membership Update: Ken Foresee and Ian Trumbull have not renewed membership as of publication.

Treasurer's Report:

\$2771.06

Old Business:

Arrangements are still in the works for relocating the Chapter Library and cataloguing all of its contents. If there isn't space to house everything in one location, then the possibility of redistributing some of the contents among the Chapter members was also discussed.

Attempts to reach former Chapter Member and Librarian, Mike O'Neill, have been unsuccessful to date.

Delegate to Council was discussed, though nobody has been chosen or volunteered. Kim Hoessly and Chris Altenburg may, or may not, attend the Convention which is Denver, CO

Late September or early October were considered for a Fortepiano Technical. Robert Murphy may be available to come down for a day for a lower fee since there may no longer be a concert and performer's master class involved. Also considered was a fee of \$10 to \$20, possibly more, for the event.

New Business:

There was no new business.

2015



PTG

Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention

www.ptgmarc.org

Butts & Flanges

Chris Altenburg tuned an atypical piano recently, an electric folding spinet. Evidently it had strings, as opposed to reeds or tines, and the keyboard folded in. The brand name is unknown by the editor at this time. Several companies experimented with electric strung pianos, like Baldwin and RCA/Storytone, not to mention the famous Yamaha CP series. The folding keyboard pianos generally seemed to be plagued by regulation issues, which isn't hard to imagine since some action tolerances are more unforgiving than others and the constant packing and unpacking could cause "minor" shifting and misalignments from time to time.

Piano technicians, it seems, are constantly on the lookout for the perfect flashlight. One that is bright, yet small and can fit into tight places. Pictured below is Kim Hoessly's latest find from Batteries Plus.



Next Stop...?



Twilight Zone: A Piano in the House
<http://www.hulu.com/watch/440887>

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Troubleshooting Piano Problems

Thanks to Graves for hosting our March meeting and providing food and beverages. The technical portion of the meeting was lead by Kim Hoessly, and covered the topic of troubleshooting. It primarily dealt with action and noise problems but touched on a few other subjects as well.

To start with, what is our job? To make the pianist happy with the piano, which is usually done by tuning, but also by fixing other problems as well. The longer you work on pianos, the better you get at identifying problems, but you must pay close attention to some tiny little details. You may also find it useful to keep files of causes and results on various pianos. From here Kim categorizes two types of troubleshooting: Problems with function; and problems with noise. Every noise problem deals in some way with function, but not every function problem makes a noise.

Function problems can be further broken down into subcategories of age and wear, poor design, damage, and foreign objects in the piano. Knowledge of brands and action types and their tendencies are valuable here. How is the piano used? Is it in a church, school, college, venue, or home environment. Also, just because a piano was designed and built a certain way doesn't mean it worked very well to start with. Sometimes manufacturers may decide on different materials or production methods than what was originally planned. This led to a discussion of various piano with known problems, early Young Chang action brackets expanding after assembly being one example. Sometimes there is damage of some sort, or high and low humidity levels causing parts to rub together.

When addressing problems like these it is important not to create other problems. For example, if you're going to move a hammer rubbing against another, be sure to file the hammer if it has deep string grooves, or they'll catch on the strings causing centerpinning issue in the future.

The next main category is noise problems. These are often the same as the function problems mentioned above, but not always. And, since sound can travel through various structures within the piano, these can be tricky to solve because the source must often be tracked down. Kim offered a list of noise types and descriptions: Rattle, buzz, groan, click, knock, and so on. Is it a wood, or metallic, sound? A vibration? Does it happen all the time, or only at certain dynamic levels? During a particular season? For everyone, or certain players? Is the lid up or down? Any pedals in use?

Kim stresses the importance of listening to what the customers are saying, and helping them to be specific without putting words into their mouths. When you think the problem is solved have the customer try it out, if possible.

Some solutions to common problems were discussed with people offering examples of pianos they've worked on. Tighten loose items. Loose screws and glue joints are some of the most common causes of noise. Lubricate. If possible, use dry lubricant like teflon powder in the action. No WD-40, or silicone or oil! Protek CLP is good for material issues and MacLube spray or liquid is good for pivot points. ProFelt is good on key bushings, and VJ Lube or CLP on pedals. These lubricants can be used for other things as well. If gluing is needed, just remember that not all glues are suited for all purposes. It's not preferable to use CA glue for key bushings, for example.





The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

www.ptgcolumbus.org



Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President	Kim Hoessly, RPT
Vice-President	John Schmol, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
Secretary	Christopher Burget
Imm. Past Pres.	Bryan Hartzler, RPT

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

Upcoming Events Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, April 21
7:30pm**

Columbus Piano Leasing
6493 Proprietors Rd
Worthington, OH 43085
columbuspianoleasing.com

Pizza & Pop at 7:00 pm

Topic: Vertical Dampers
by Phil Walters

Map Link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/WWk6F>

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

Disclaimer:

All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the guild.

Articles and illustrations may be re-printed by other PTG newsletters with proper acknowledgment, unless otherwise indicated in the article.

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

Chris Burget, 1706 Pin Oak Dr., Columbus, OH 43229 cjburget@gmail.com