

# The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild  
Volume 35 Issue 5 Summer 2010



## NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

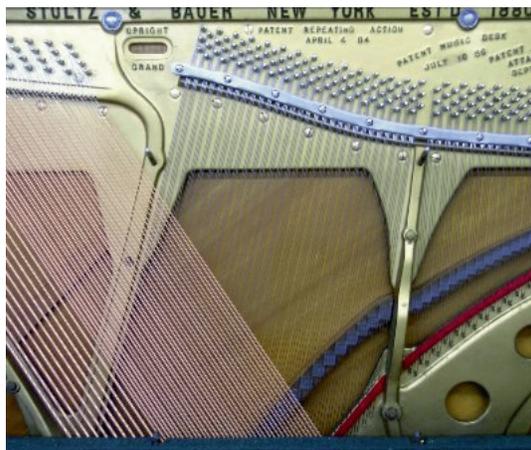


The PTG Columbus Chapter Officers for the coming year are: Chris Purdy, RPT, President; Mark Ritchie, RPT, Vice-President; Ron Kenreich, Treasurer; and Chris Burget, Secretary. Many thanks to these gentlemen for their willingness to serve!

## MAY CHAPTER MEETING

Thanks to Mark Ritchie for hosting our May chapter meeting and for showing us the Stultz & Bauer piano he is restoring. This is one of those old uprights which is worth the effort and money to restore. Many components including the bridge and pinblock are still in good condition. For instance Mark noted

that all the bridge pins are still solidly in place. Pictured: top - Mark chatting with Chris Altenburg; bottom - Ben Wiant, Evan Bingham (our newest chapter member), and Kim Hoessly. Near left - the piano after restringing.



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## Chapter Meeting Minutes May 18, 2010

The meeting was held at Mark and Marilyn Ritchie's home and workshop.

**Attendance:** Kim Hoessly, Chris Altenburg, Ron Kenreich, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Ben Wiant, Victor Wolfe, Chris Burget, and Evan Bingham.

### President's Report

The Leader Letter announced that there are Chapter Grants available from the home office. These grants are intended to help with educational programs given by the chapter and are awarded through grant applications.

### Treasurer's Report

We presently have \$1064.30 in checking and \$2200.00 in CDs.

### Old Business

David Stang volunteered to assist Kim and Ben with the FortePiano event. There will be a meeting during the summer to begin the planning. The event is tentatively planned for spring 2011. (Note the correct term is "Fortepiano" and not "PianoForte".)

Ben Wiant would like to pass on his duties as chapter librarian. He will give an item inventory to the newsletter editor for publication.

Evan Bingham indicated that he may attend the National meeting in June, and if he is able to go he will serve as our chapter delegate.

The chapter picnic will be Tuesday September 21, and will coincide with our chapter meeting.

The members present approved the publication of our advertisements in the OMTA and the AGO annual membership publications.

### New Business

The Library has a number of old Piano Technician Journals, and Ben said he would be happy to donate them to anyone interested.

We held a discussion of some of the Proposals to be voted upon at the National Convention, in order to inform our delegate of our wishes as a chapter. Note that the delegate is free to vote as he chooses if arguments during the meeting are reasonably persuasive. Refer to the May 2010 Journal Supplement for the full text of the proposals and the national board and bylaws committee's recommendations.

Proposal 2: Allied Piano Trades Membership Category. We recommend defeat for the same reasons elucidated by the national bylaws committee.

Proposal 3: Addition to Missions and Principles regarding the acknowledgement of piano service in recordings and concert programs. We recommended defeat. It is a fine idea, but does not make sense for it to appear in our bylaws.

Proposal 4: College and University Technicians Endorsement. We recommended defeat. The purpose of this endorsement remains vague. The national bylaws committee report explains in full why adoption of the proposal may cause problems.

Proposal 6: Application Review Committee. The national board proposed this in order to grant applicants a right to appeal negative reviews from the Membership Application Committee. We generally felt it is a good idea, but recommended that our delegate listen carefully to the arguments presented at the meeting and vote according to his judgement.

The other proposals appear to be reasonable minor changes and we recommended adoption unless a compelling reason not to adopt is brought to the meeting.

Chapter Elections were held. The new office-holders are:

Treasurer – Ron Kenreich

Secretary – Chris Burget

Vice-President – Mark Ritchie

These officers were elected unopposed and by acclamation.

The office of president was not filled because there were no nominations nor volunteers. This matter was tabled.

The membership unanimously supported both Chris Purdy and Bryan Hartzler (who were not present) should one of them step forward to volunteer.

A drawing was held for a \$50 gift to be used for Pianotek Piano Supplies, and won by Ben Wiant. Congratulations to Ben who said this is the best thing he has ever won.

### Announcements:

A contact for electronic organ repairs was announced:

Dwaine Childers, (Chillicothe), 740/703-7219

Next meeting: Sept 21, 2010. This is also a picnic, so the starting time will be 6pm. Location TBA.

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## Post-Meeting News

Chris Purdy, RPT has agreed to be our chapter president. Thank you Chris, and the chapter members will help you out in any way we can.

## FROM THE CHICAGO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER "THE WIPPEN POST"

### Sound Advice

by Jeff Cappelli, RPT

Voicing is the last step of regulation and, in large part, a consequence of proper regulation procedures from start to finish. All pertinent processes act as a prelude to voicing. These include not only the adjustments we make at the repetitions, damper timing, string leveling, aligning, spacing, traveling, shaping hammers and tuning. (All of these should be done before anything happens with the hammer felt.) The message here is to avoid the temptation to apply quick fixes in voicing. Look deeply into the reasons why tone might be lacking and go from the foundation of touch in seeking meaningful solutions.

Everything works together. Getting the hammer to the string in the most predictable, even manner is essential to touch and tone. When that happens and when the hammer is well shaped, we can focus on adjusting the density of the felt with various solutions—needles, heat, steam—you name it. Go easy, though, with the sauce! Often less is more and we may find most (or all) of what we want out of the piano without pouring anything into the felt. Having already addressed pianissimo, we can look toward forte and what is needed to expand the dynamic range to full potential. Again, increase tone gradually, until there is no longer a benefit to a bigger (or is it only brighter?) sound. Hammers and pianos have limitations. Other factors include the soundboard and the environment in which the piano exists. Everything contributes to the sound. More than anything, exercise patience in striving to extract the best possible sound from the piano.

This is an excerpt. Read the full newsletter at <http://www.ptg.org/newsletters/601/2010/06.pdf>

## FOR SALE

### 1897 Bluthner 6'3" Grand, Serial No. 47544

Contact: Wallace Oliver, 891-1764, Westerville  
*from Kim:*

This is a beautiful old piano with an ornate case. Everything is original, I've tuned it for about 10 years for this gentleman. He is asking \$27,500. I have nothing to gain by the sale of the instrument, but Mr. Oliver has been a good customer and I'm happy to help him find a good home for this piano. If you have any interest or know of one of your clients who might, you can contact Mr. Oliver directly. If you have any questions about the instrument, feel free to call me.

Notes for technicians: it is an older style action with wood brackets and rocker capstans. It does hold a tuning, although some of the bass pins don't hold that well in the winter, so restringing is in this piano's future, sooner rather than later. It is all single strung in the treble and there is an extra string above the other 3 in the treble (the hammer does not strike them, but they ring sympathetically with the others, see photo). As near as I can tell, everything in the piano is original. The board and bridges look good.





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

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

<b>President</b>	Chris Purdy, RPT
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mark Ritchie, RPT
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ron Kenreich
<b>Secretary</b>	Christopher Burget
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Kim Hoessly, RPT

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

*- David*

## Upcoming Meetings

June 26 - 30, 2010

**PTG National Convention**

Las Vegas

[www.ptg.org/conv/2010](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2010)

No chapter meeting in June, July, or August

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2010, 6:00pm

Chapter Picnic and Meeting

Location TBD

Have a great summer!  
- the Buckeye Backcheck Staff



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

### Disclaimer:

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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.

David B. Stang, 286 E. Kelso Rd., Columbus, OH 43202 [stang\\_db@yahoo.com](mailto:stang_db@yahoo.com)