

President's Message *Mark Ritchie*

There was outstanding attendance at the February meeting. I guess everyone was ready to get back to work after the holidays, (or was it Kim's homemade chocolate chip cookies) ? The Chapter welcomed two new guests Mike Hill and Don Carle and second time guest Matthew Scavo. New members keep our organization fresh, with new questions and voices to be heard from. The *Butts & Flanges* session of the meeting really extended with some interesting discussions on a variety of topics. I feel one of the great benefits of attending Chapter meetings is the opportunity of having open forums to toss around ideas and questions. We have a chance to learn and explore from other viewpoints. I hope to see everyone next month too.

-- Mark

Schmoll, Phil Walters, Rick Miller, Mike Varrone, guests ; Matthew Scavo, Don Carle, Mike Hill

No previous minutes due to our January Dinner.
 Treasure's Balance: \$1,368.59

New Business:

Asked for delegate(s) to attend the Rochester National Convention.

The technical exam is scheduled for March 24, 2006. Those who are planning to take the exam (and have not yet signed up) need to Call Mitch Staples and schedule the written exam and then advise Kim Hoessly so that she can get the proper amount of RPT coverage for the test. Please be courteous as the RPT's need to know if they are to take off of their work from their busy schedule to facilitate the test takers.

RPT's agreed to help are: Mark, Ben, Mitch, Chris, and Kim.

Another exciting technical is coming with Ben McKlveen. Please note that this is tentatively scheduled on **Wednesday** April 19, 2006. Please make plans to attend.

Kim suggested that we have a booth for the OMEA convention next year (2007). She volunteered to make the contacts and acquire all the information needed to make a decision.

Old Business:

Kim Hoessly has offered her church's Everett piano for parts etc. please contact her if you are interested at 614-326-3630.

Mark handed out Dampn Chaser installation DVD's

Business Meeting Adjourned @ 8:05pm.

Next Meeting / Tue. March 21, 2006 @ 7:30

At the Ritchie's 6262 State Rte. 605
 Westerville, OH North of New Albany just inside the Delaware county line.



With 17 members and guests in attendance there was no way to include everyone in the photo. Left to right from the back John Schmoll, Dwight Hansen, Matt Scavo & Don Carle (guests) Chris Altenburg and David Stang.

Minutes Tuesday February 21, 2006

We want to thank Kim Hoessly for hosting the meeting with wonderful refreshments and technical.

Meeting called to order @7:38PM

Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Dean Nedvecki, David Stang, Chris Altenburg, Dwight Hansen, Bob Grubb, Doug Brandt, Mark Ritchie, Ben Wiant, John



Kim Hoessly at her 1907 Steinway upright complete with new action installed. "It's still a work in progress"



Doug Brandt plays a few selections for the crowd.

Butts and Flanges:

There was a question of an historical age piano that needed the hammer butt-plates replaced. These are the ones that have a cord running through the butt plate. The question was, Do we manufacture new ones at a rather large expense or re- design a hammer return rail to replace the original parts? The discussion offered various opinions. The biggest factor was the customer considered this a sentimental instrument. They

were willing to pay the difference to restore the piano to the original design. And the out of date parts can be manufactured. The consensus was to manufacture the part. Kim suggested to contact an online forum and post the question there.

Technical:

Sometimes technicians will share their experiences working on an interesting piano. It always comes with a story, a hometown kind of feel. You know where it came from or who might have owned it in the past. The technicians hearing it are on the edge of their seat. Well this time the technician has both the piano and the story. Kim Hoessly, RPT has this story. She bought an upright piano from her piano teacher long ago. It happens to be a 1907 Steinway upright. She bought it to restore it. After many years she finally accomplished her dream. She didn't do this for a customer or a prestigious concert hall. The reason, she is passionate about a fine quality piano sound. Kim has equipped this instrument with new wippens, hammer butts, and Abel hammers which were provided with shanks by Wally Brooks. In addition she has replaced all of the parts that needed to be replaced. The result is an instrument that has a wonderful sound. After 60-70 hours of work she and her family and friends can enjoy this work of art created from a crafted technician. Two of the technicians played her work of art. They played jazz as well as classical and all agreed it was a great piano sound.

Respectively submitted,
Mike Varrone, Secretary

March Technical

Marilyn Ritchie will present a technical on the "How and Why of Key Bushing" with a little assistance from Mark. We have a short slide program with a little hands on demo from Marilyn.

**2006 Annual PTG Convention: Rochester,
NY June 21st -25th, 2006**

**A Focus on Multi-Session Instruction with
Hands-On Training**

The Annual Convention has always been a great place to network with technicians and to get a sneak peak into what some of the best craftsmen in our trade are doing. Phenomenal instructors, creative and thorough classes with well developed ideas and execution. BUT...

...Have you ever left that 1½ hrs class session feeling you've only had your appetite whetted as a casual observer but not sure you could really pull it off yourself?

Institute 2006 has the answer! Providing Multi-session classes and Hands on Training in many areas of piano technology from beginner to advanced, you *will* develop confidence in your skills. You would only expect this quality of intense programming at a small, independent training center.

**Intensive Multi-Day Programs in Grand and
Vertical Regulation**

**Sponsored by Samick Music Corp. and Yamaha
Corp. of America**

These classes are intended for those who can commit to the entire program of intense hands-on instruction. Pre-registration is required.

Samick Music Corp. and Roger Jolly have created a comprehensive grand regulation program covering everything from keybedding to regulation, string work and voicing. Using 12 **Samick** grand pianos, each piano will have a mentor and 5 students providing intensive hands-on participant instruction. This multi-session class will consume four days, three hours per day.

The **Yamaha** team will re-introduce the "Hands-On" Vertical Regulation Curriculum as prescribed in the PTG publication. Based on Yamaha's Little Red

Schoolhouse the Yamaha team offers 6 class periods spread over three days. This program will be taught on 15 **Yamaha** upright pianos, three students per piano.

This incredible opportunity is only ONE of TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION. Hope to see you there!

For up-to-date information, class descriptions and scheduling. Visit the conference web page at:

www.ptg.org/conv/2006

Name the Piano

In the wake of Super Bowl XL I felt a piano related Super Bowl trivia question would be appropriate, so here goes.

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

From last months *Name the Piano* I know a few people got the correct answer. I guess the clue was better than I thought (that was to make up for a somewhat blurred picture). The company was the Grand Piano Co. from Morganton, N. Carolina. The Coat of Arms from the Kincaid piano, and I assume the family's, since it was owned by the Kincaid family and Dennis Kincaid was the president. *Ich verteidige = I Defend* The company formed in 1961 and produced pianos under a variety of names. The company was acquired by Marantz (division of Superscope) around 1978. Marantz Co. did factory installation of the Pianocorder player system in some of these instruments, or the player unit could be installed aftermarket.

The Pianocorder system was the forerunner of the modern digital player systems.

Tool Bending

By Tom Harr

Along with the ability to adapt, modify, or make from scratch piano parts and components a valuable adjunct to any piano technician's skills is the capability to make *tools* or modify existing ones for specific purposes. The proper tool makes the difference in doing a job easily, correctly, or at all. Tool making need not involve great expertise in metal-working nor require any machinery more elaborate than a vise and ordinary hand tools. (Some machinery helps, just as power tools make wood-working easier, more efficient and precise, but many projects can be completed without such aids.)

Simple Bends

In *Figure 1* at bottom is a stock spring hook. Above it is one the fork of which has been bent up about 20° so it can grasp grand repetition-lever springs and bend them to adjust tension. Glen Hart's ingenious and well-made spring tool has many advantages, but I think this is handier for this purpose. Above that is a capstan wrench with the large end bent about 15° to rest on the key and reach the capstan. Yamaha sells a wrench somewhat like this. There seems no point in similarly modifying the small end as it won't help in most applications. On top is a piece of 1/8 in. brass tubing bent to slip under a pressure-bar and receive the end of a replacement string, or placed at the back of an agraffe hole to catch the wire-end and prevent it from digging into the understring cloth. The handle is mostly to keep the tool from getting lost in the stringing tool kit.

Beyond Simple Bends

Figure 2 shows above a stock key-spacer one bent to provide some leverage to the operation instead of relying on wrist action. The bend shown should be about 1 in. further toward the handle to give better clearance for spacing sharps. You will probably need a vise and a propane torch for this. It has been suggested that the fork end should be beveled to lift

the punching and bring the bend in the key-pin right down to the keyframe. However, "mox nix," as my German uncle used to say, the angle of the bend is so slight and the distance so small as to render the question of dubious concern. [That's *macht's nichts*, "It doesn't matter."] Next refer to *Figure 3* showing an as purchased Nicholson #2 round bastard (that's its cut, not its parentage) and one modified by grinding two opposite sides flat and removing surplus length. The pile of balance-rail punchings limit its penetration and the flat on the handle shows the orientation of the flat sides of the file. Now it's a balance-pin hole key easer.

Fig. #1

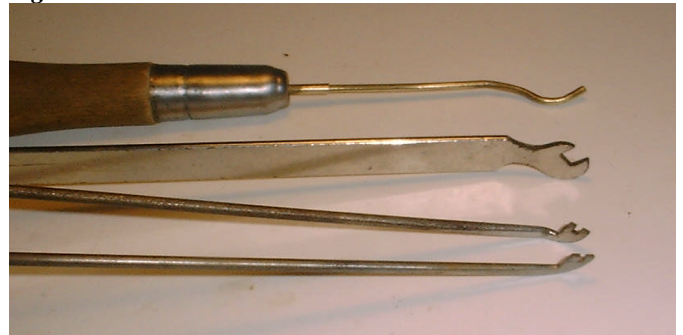


Fig. #2



Fig. #3





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

Tuesday March 21, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Ritchie's
6262 State Rte. 605 , Westerville, Ohio (also known as New Albany - Condit Rd.)
Technical will be the "How and Why of Key Bushing" with Marilyn Ritchie

March 24th - Technical Exam Offered

Hughes Hall at The Ohio State University 9:30 AM / Contact Kim Hoessly 614-326-3630 to schedule

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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