

PRESIDENT'S BLURB

Well, as usual, February has flown by faster than Usain Bolt on a good day (come on, the Beijing Olympics weren't that long ago). March is just about my favorite month: the days are getting longer and warmer, I can start getting out and swinging my clubs, spring flowers are starting to bloom and even when it does snow, it doesn't stick around too long; what's not to like?

It's also time to get tax data together either for your accountant or your Turbo Tax programs. Don't put it off too long. I'm a big fan of files, I have files for just about every aspect of my business and the advantage of that is, when it comes time to garner all my information, I know where it is. Shoe boxes are not good places for receipts, so having a good filing system is important, especially in a small monies.

Some people have a more thorough system for filing types of screws in their shops than they do for filing business receipts. I know shop work is more exciting and interesting than office work, but don't let yourself fall into too big a hole when it comes to keeping track of that aspect of your organization (no pun intended).

And speaking of tax deductions, it's also time to be thinking about the PTG National Convention which is in Grand Rapids MI this year. That's just over 300 miles and depending on your driving speed and number of stops, about 5 hours. Pretty close for all of us in Ohio. Don't miss the opportunity to attend when it's within driving distance (and next year, when you're doing your taxes, you'll have a great big deduction). Remember, there are scholarships available for associates who have passed two RPT examinations and plan to take the third exam at the convention. Contact the Home Office for details.

- Kim

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

Tuning Exam contact is Doug Atkins RPT, 937-766-7566 or atkinsd@cedarville.edu

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



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

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

MEETING MINUTES February 17, 2009

The meeting was held at Grave's Piano and Organ. Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Ron Kenreich, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Victor Wolfe, Ben Wyant, Richard Miller, Dwight Hansen, Bill Golden, Doug Brandt, Chris Purdy, guest Mike Masters, RPT from Cleveland, and prospective members Michael O'Neill and Chris Burget.

Thank you, Graves!

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

From the "Leader Letter": PTG has a new partnership with the PianoWorld website. Members can advertise for \$100 (discounted from \$179) on their site. RPT Logo added for free. See www.pianoworld.com/PTG. Check the member area of ptg.org for guidelines for promoting your PTG membership, and business. Free print and web-ready graphics are available.

Committee Reports

Testing committee:

The new written test is in effect.

New RPT Exam rates are in effect:

Complete Tech or Tuning Exam: \$180 (\$90 remitted to test sponsor)

Partial Tuning retake: \$90

Partial Tech Exam retake: \$60 per section.

We will need to amend the standing rules regarding the Cliff Maurer Memorial Prize.

Scholarships are available through the PTG Foundation as associates planning to take their third exam at the convention. Applications due by April 1. Check the PTG website: www.ptg.org/ptgf.

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

New Business

The Standing Rules regarding the Cliff Maurer Memorial Prize were changed due to the change in exam fees. **Note:** These rules in no way will conflict with the by-laws of the PTG. Standing rules are rules which are related to the details of the administration rather than to palimentary procedure and can be adopted or changed when the need arises. A standing rule can be adopted at any business meeting without previous notice.

Old Language: *RPT (members not nominated) members present at the November meeting will vote for the recipient of the prize which will consist of \$180 or the current cost of taking the technical and exams.*

New Language: *RPT (members not nominated) members present at the November meeting will vote for the recipient of the prize which will consist of the current reimbursement to the chapter for taking the technical and tuning exams.*

Michael O'Neil from Marysville, was introduced as a candidate for membership in PTG. His paperwork should be going through shortly.

The new action model has arrived.

Several members indicated they were planning to attend the National Convention in Grand Rapids MI. Memebers were asked to think about a Delegate to Council and possibly an alternate so we can make that decision at the next meeting.

Announcements

Sunday February 22 4pm: Handbells Columbus at First Congregational Church downtown

Next Meeting is March 17 at Ben Wiant's. CERVP, Richard Bittner, will be giving the technical.

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Technical Program

The program for our February meeting was led by Mike Masters, RPT of Cleveland. He and Kim prepared a number of grand and upright pianos in the Graves showroom to have regulation problems, many of which were things that an owner would refer to as a "sticking key". A few were a little tricky, but after we put our heads together we were able to diagnose all the "booby-traps".

Here are a few interesting points that were brought out by the exercise:

It's a good rule of thumb to start looking for problems at the front of the key, then proceed back. If the problem is with keyfront clearance, keystick warpage, front bushing friction, etc. your diagnostic work is done before you even need to pull the action. In a household with children, sometimes the culprit is simply an object that has fallen between the keys.

There are other problems that can be seen before pulling the action:

Lack of aftertouch can cause problems, so a quick check of keydip can be an indicator.

Look at hammer alignment, on a grand make sure hammers are striking correctly with the left (shift) pedal both up and depressed.

If there is a thump or a double-strike, look at hammer let-off to see blocking or bobble problems.

Look at the damper movement. Often a "kick-back" feeling occurs upon playing a note on a grand if the damper stop rail is not adjusted, and you can see the dampers jump.

Have a look at grand repetition spring tension by putting a key in check, then backing off slowly. A clunky feeling can result from strong springs.

If you suspect bushing friction, (on an upright), pressing the damper pedal to remove the damper spring force will make the friction stand out.

When you do pull the action, look carefully at jack alignment. Small errors there can cause big playing problems. Mike suggesting using the "NUCKLJAC" tool by Richard Salamone to help.

Check pedal lost motion to make sure there is enough room for the dampers to damp all the way.

Pull on the hammer rest rail a little to check key lost motion (on an upright). There needs to be a tiny bit of lost motion, and don't "cheat" by adjusting the left pedal mechanism to get it!

Thank you to Mike and to Kim for this fun and enlightening technical.



Mike Masters RPT (wearing the tie) sees if he can stump us.

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

FROM KIM HOESSLY: Visit to Northern Ohio

I was up in Akron a couple of weeks ago to present a technical on taking the RPT Tech Exam. The meeting took place at Steinway Hall in Akron which was once the home of some wealthy Akronite (or rather mansion). I took a few photos while I was there. It may not be the most efficient space for a piano dealer, but what atmosphere!



One of several showroom areas



What a nice way to use the beautiful foyer



Fireplace. Note the woodwork which was prevalent throughout the building,



Nice stained glass in the stairwell, too bad it was dark outside. Note the ornate radiator in the foreground



What Steinway dealership would be complete without a little shrine to this guy?



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 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 peripherally related to pianos)!

- David



Upcoming Events

Chapter Meetings

Tuesday March 17, 2009, 7:30pm
Ben Wiant's home
3299 Dublin Rd.
Speaker: Central East R.V.P. Richard Bittner

Tuesday April 21, 2009, 7:30pm
Speaker: David Stang on Harpsichords

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

April 23-26, 2009
Harrisburg, PA

Annual Convention and Institute

July 15 - 19, 2009
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Visit 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:

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.

David B. Stang, 286 E. Kelso Rd., Columbus, OH 43202 stang_db@yahoo.com