

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 44 Issue 1 March 2019



President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,

Our weather seems to be inching forward towards the upcoming Spring. There have been a lot of ups and downs in temperature and humidity that have the usual affect on our clients pianos. this has spurred the phone calls I get this time of year. At appointments I (almost) always mention to my clients the humidity control systems that can maintain reasonable tuning stability throughout the ever changing seasonal patterns that is beyond our control. I have installed only one (2 tank) system this winter on a newer Yamaha C6X that is used for in home recording. The pitch swings have been minimized by the introduction of the humidity control system which has lessened my services calls in half for this piano.

The Damp Chaser System is an asset for maintaining stability and longevity but the sale of these humidity control packages are hard to sell in regard to the client affordability of the kit. That has been the issue for me when I discuss the upgrade to the client. I indicate to my clients all the other wood products within the household that are affected by the climate. For example, in the winter you can have wood chairs have loose joints from the dry heat and causes loosening of the glue joints. Or the doors and window frames seem to work without the sticking and swelling parts affected by the high humidity of the summer. And, how about all the rain we had last year!

I routinely see a lone heat element on the underside of a grand or behind the knee board of an upright that has been moved form a southern state or coastal locations. On several occasions I have seen a heat rod in the grand action cavity. Yikes... This is meant to battle the swollen wooden action parts and all the swiveling action centers, however, if these heat rods are not properly used they can cause issues that will ultimately do damages to the entire frame, belly and all associated bits and pieces.

I suggest that investing in the manufacturers literature that are well written and make it easy for our clients to understand the advantages of the humidity control systems. \$10.00 dollars for 100 brochures can become a great promotion for your services and the services rendered will be profitable and help your client to protect their purchase.

David Chadwick, RPT

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Chapter Meeting Minutes February 18, 2019

The meeting was held at Solich Piano.

Attendance:

David Chadwick, Chris Burget, Chris Altenburg, Kim Hoessly, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Phil Walters, Walter Bagnall

Treasurer's Report:

\$1,879.56

Old Business:

PTG Council at the the convention has recommended that chapters should review thier by-laws. There was discussion about updating ours to be in line with recent changes in the PTG to allow Associate Members to hold offices of Chapter President and Vice President. They were last revised in 2014, and can be viewed on the Chapter website at:

<http://www.ptgcolumbus.org/bylaws.html>

New Business:

A CA pinblock treatment, or "Fun With Superglue!", technical at Graves Pianos is tentatively planned for the March meeting. Topic and location are yet to be confirmed.

Another suggestion for a future technical was along the lines of things the piano technician should know about digital pianos, or something similar.

It was suggested that since the Post-Holiday Dinner was cancelled, perhaps the Chapter could do a picnic or party this summer. More on this to come.

Butts & Flanges

Chris Altenburg services a Kimball grand and the sharps have taken on a greyish color. It comes off with little to no residue and seems to be affecting some keys more than others. He asked if anyone else has encountered this or had an explanation. Some thoughts offered were maybe hand lotion rubbing off onto the keys, key lead dust, alcohol or hand cleanser, or perhaps furniture polish containing silicone that can turn some wood surfaces cloudy.

Next was a discussion of appraisals for taxation purposes, or more specifically signing IRS form 8283, where a piano is being donated. David Stang wondered if one had to be certified as an appraiser in order to sign the form. The instructions for the form list some criteria that would allow for the appraiser to not be actually certified, per se. Put simply, it will allow for those with "...background, experience, education, and membership in professional associations, he or she is qualified to make appraisals of the type of property being valued..." This lead to discussion of the subjective nature of appraisals and their methods considering cost of repair/restoration work, cost of replacement, market research into sales prices of similar pianos, and using the depreciation schedule listed in Larry Fine's "The Piano Book".

**Not a good day at the drycleaner!
...Whoops!**



Submitted by Kim Hoessly

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Tool Time with David Chadwick

The February meeting was held at Solich Piano, and David Chadwick brought some of his tools for a show and tell. Pictured below is a partial sampling of what he brought.

Tape measure used to measure string lengths from the V-bar. The wood block mounted on the end has a scallop that is centered on the underside of the V-bar when used.



Tape measure used to measure string lengths from the hitch pin. Bass string maker J.D. Grandt was handing these out at a convention David attended.



The Bushmaster keybushing tool is used to simultaneously set the depth and cut of keybushing cloth while inserted into the mortise. Depressing the spring loaded plunger exposes a dual-edged razor blade that cuts the cloth. It is fast and efficient, but may result in more scrap cloth depending on the method used when going from key to key.

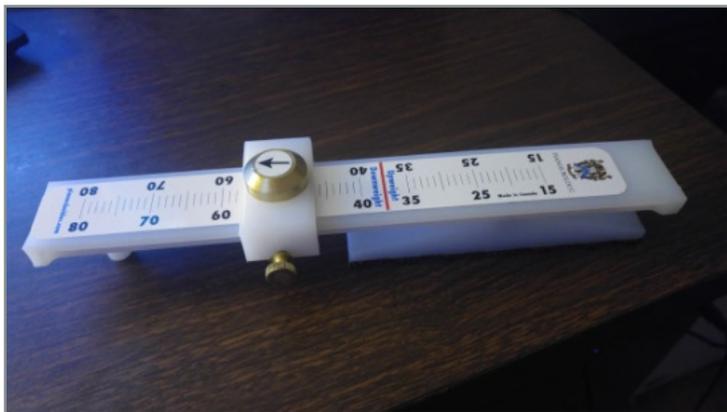


Home made key pounder. The handle came from a tool kit that belonged to his great-grandfather and has his initials "J P C" engraved on the side.



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Bolduc Touchweight Device with a slide rule design that allows for quick measuring of up and down touchweight across the keyboard. With one end positioned over the front rail keypins one can slide the weight until the lever tilts downward, or upward, as needed after slight knock on the keybed. Usuable on both naturals and sharps.



Miniature tuning hammer useful in tight places and also when you want to get very close to the pin for more tactile feedback.



Hale hammer voicing tool. Squeezing the handle of this tool engages a spring loaded block with several needles. Used primarily on the hammer shoulder.



The business end of the Hale hammer voicing tool. Looks like a prop from the movie "The Marathon Man"... "Is it safe?"



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Newark Advocate.

Aces of Trades – David Chadwick piano tuner

<https://tinyurl.com/yy9xu7b7>

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

- Officers -

President	David Chadwick, RPT
Vice-President	Chris Purdy, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
Secretary	Chris Burget
Imm. Past Pres.	Mitch Staples, RPT

**Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, March 19
7:00pm**

**Food & Drinks:
6:30pm**

Graves Piano & Organ Co.
5798 Karl Road
Columbus, OH 43229
www.gravespianos.com

Topic: CA Glue Pinblock
Treatment

Map Link:
<http://goo.gl/maps/hoXHi>

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

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