

*August 2011*

***THE SOONER TUNER***  
*The Official Newsletter of  
The Oklahoma Chapter of  
the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.*

Howdy ya'll. Welcome to the August edition of the Sooner Tuner. This Month's meeting will be held on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be held at David and Barbara Bonham's house which is located at 10717 Eastlake Circle. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73162 near the intersection of Hefner Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. In the Ski Island community.

This months technical will be given by David Bonham on piano repair in the field and in the shop. This will be the first meeting in David's new shop. Please come and the listen to the experience of this seasoned professional. David always has useful information to share. As do all our experienced RPT's.

*Condolences please to Blaine Morris who recently suffered the tragic Loss of his Grandchild. If there is anything we can do Blaine, just ask.*

***From The Desk Of The President.....***

From the President;

Well folks, it's been an interesting summer, to say the least. We've had the hottest July on record, and some say it's been so dry that they've had to spray the catfish for ticks. On the National scene, our Congress, well, not so hot!

We didn't get our usual spring rains to drive up the humidity and change the pitch on the many unprotected pianos our customers own. So, the tuning has stayed fairly stable through the winter, and that, combined with a less than exuberant economy has slowed down tuning calls for most of us. However, if history repeats itself, as soon as the gates open for the State Fair in September, the rains will come. As far as the economy goes, who knows? The stock market is dropping like a rock in a water bucket today, but it will return back to normal eventually.

But none of the negative out look phases us, because we are the SOONER TUNERS!  
We are SURVIVERS! HOOAAAH!!

See you at the next meeting??

Bob

## What is a Registered Piano Technician (RPT)?

The field of piano technology is an unregulated trade. Therefore the Piano Technicians Guild has set its own standards of quality for piano technicians. The Guild has two types of members: Registered Piano Technicians and Associates. Associate membership is open to all individuals 18 years of age and older with a professional or avocational interest in piano technology. On the other hand, the title of "Registered Piano Technician" must be earned by passing a series of examinations.



To attain the RPT classification, a PTG member must pass three examinations. A written exam tests basic knowledge of piano design, tuning theory, repair techniques and various other topics relevant to piano technology. Two separate practical, hands-on exams test tuning and technical skills. The practical exams are administered by panels of RPTs under the leadership of examiners trained and certified in standardized exam procedures. Exam procedures are designed to comply with standards of objectivity mandated by US anti-trust legislation, thus assuring that exams are fair and equivalent regardless of where or by whom they are administered. On the tuning exam the candidate must match as closely as possible a "master tuning" created by a panel of examiners who have agreed - after painstaking experimentation and analysis - on an optimal tuning for the test piano. The exam is scored by using extremely sensitive electronic equipment to measure the deviation of the candidate's tuning from the standard thus established. Candidates who use electronic tuning devices in their work must nevertheless demonstrate their ability to tune by ear, unaided by electronics. The technical exam requires the candidate to demonstrate professional-level skills in assembling a grand and a vertical piano action (the mechanical component of the piano) and in making all the complicated adjustments (called "regulation") so that they function properly. The candidate must also demonstrate facility in various common repairs involving wood, cloth, felt, piano wire and other materials commonly used in pianos. All the procedures on these exams must be completed in prescribed time periods - thus demonstrating the fluency required of a professional.

The rating of RPT is not meant to be a rating for a rebuilder; it is meant to show that the technician is ready to handle normal piano service and repair. The Piano Technicians Guild has put a lot of time and effort into its examinations to establish a good set of standardized tests which will help insure quality service. The written test takes about 1 hour. The tuning and technical tests take about 4 hours each.

Only Registered Piano Technicians can advertise with that title. The Piano Technicians Guild does allow Associate members to advertise as "Associate" members, but these members have not yet passed the exams. They are encouraged to take advantage of PTG's educational offerings. When you are looking for service on your piano, look for a Registered Piano Technician. The logo above designates that the member is an RPT. Note the words Registered Piano Technician in the logo itself.

Here are our official descriptions of these categories:

**A Registered Piano Technician (RPT)** has passed a series of rigorous examinations on the maintenance, repair, and tuning of pianos. Only RPTs are authorized by The Piano Technicians Guild to display the logo containing the words "Registered Piano Technician".

**An Associate** is a member who has not passed the RPT examinations. Associates may be studying piano technology and working toward RPT status, or may be piano retailers, rebuilders, refinishers or other specialists.

Chapter Officers are as follow

President- Bob Scheer

Vice President – David Bonham

Treasurer – Gary Bruce

Secretary – Jordan Bruce

Newsletter Editor – Eric Williams

South central regional Vice President - Steve Waltham

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