

THE SOONER TUNER

Official newsletter of the [Oklahoma Chapter 731](#)

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

July 2012

Next Meeting
July 19, 2012
Thursday 8:30am

[Oklahoma Christian University](#)

Location

[Garvey Fine Arts Center](#) ~ [Directions](#)

405-348-3213 ~ 405-413-8863

Chapter meeting agenda - We will review WNG class w/Jamie Marks and discuss the upcoming August WNG seminar in Boston. Also, each person attending the meeting is asked to bring brief (5-7 minute) mini-technical of their choosing based on recent field/shop experience to share with group.

President's Message

How is your summer going? Mine seems to be passing quickly. I have been doing a lot of sod-laying and tree-trimming on Picnic Island, making it a more beautiful place for our neighborhood to enjoy. I hope each of you is doing something for a change of pace from the rest of the year which brings you enjoyment and renewal.

I am excited to share with you a recent project that I built to add to our fleet of piano moving dollies. Barbara and I got a request to move a 5'10" Kawai grand to Osage Beach, Missouri and deliver it to a fourth floor condominium. The elevator was about 4 1/2' by 5 1/2', not big enough to hold the piano on its side on one of our grand dollies. We didn't want to have to drag it up the steps which would have required locating several strong hired hands, so I set out to build a dolly to hold the piano upended on its keyboard end. Starting with a heavy-duty set of twin dollies, a piano bench lid, a boat seat, some lumber and carpeting, and just one trip(!) to the hardware store, I assembled what I had pictured in my mind for several years but hadn't had the impetus to build before this job.

I am pleased to report that it worked very well, with no scary or awkward moments or extra help needed. I'll demonstrate it sometime for the chapter. This was another illustration of the maxim "Necessity is the mother of invention."

I hope to see you at the meeting next Thursday.

David



Please don't hesitate to [submit newsletter items](#) you feel worthy.
All submissions will be considered for future newsletter publications.

Regards,
Keith McGavern, Newsletter Editor

~ Richard Carl Dupree ~
obituary

Oklahoma Chapter Officers
June 2012 – May 2013

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT
Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT
Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT
Treasurer - [Gary Bruce](#), RPT
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okptg.org



A Technical Tidbit

FROM THE ST LOUIS GATEWAY TUNER APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

Terry "UniGeezer" Peterson shared this **re-bushing secret**:

I usually send keys out to be re-bushed, or to have new key tops installed. But I had just acquired a console that I was going to sell to a local client, when I discovered about half of the keys bushings had fallen out. I checked all the other keys and the bushing were intact and looked good, so I decided to re-bush the bad ones myself, but didn't have any cauls.

I looked around for little objects that that might suffice, and just by sheer luck, I discovered that Vagias plastic elbows were as close to perfect as it gets! The snap-in end fits right down into the oval key hole and compressed the bushing felt with perfect snugness. And after drying, and to my great relief, resulted in a perfect bushing job!

And because I have a whole set of elbows, I had more than enough to do all the bad keys in one go! The elbows are slightly tapered which makes them snugger the further down they are inserted, and also stop against the bushing hole since they have a "t" shape about 3/4" up, very similar to actual cauls.



What do you think? ... [Editor](#)

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JUNE 2012  
Submitted by [Steve Walthall, RPT](#)  
[South Central Regional Vice President](#)  
[Executive Outlook](#)



Play Ball!

There was once a young baseball pitcher who made it to the big leagues. One day the pitching coach told this young rookie that the manager wanted to see him in the office. A little nervous, the rookie knocked on the office door and entered. The manager asked him to sit down and tell him how everything was going. " Pretty good " the young rookie said, then nervously continued, "Coach I know I need to work on my slider, and I want my change up to be better, and my knuckle ball, and --" The manager stopped him and asked, "What's your best pitch?" The rookie proudly said, "Well, my fast ball, Coach." The manager smiled a little and said, "Work on your fast ball."

I like that story. I certainly have some piano technician skills that I'd like to improve, but I need to remember to continue to work on my "best pitch". Our PTG is a great place to do this. Just by preparing and taking, or helping to give an RPT exam, I get better. Teaching a class for one of my own chapter meetings helps to improve my skills. There's no better way to learn than to teach. Of course, there are others on our team with a different best pitch than mine, and I can find them in the front portion of our directory, or in ads in the Journal. They may be colleagues from my local chapter. For myself, I know I can't do everything. But I do want to learn or at least know about all piano work.

Our new website, [my.ptg.org](http://my.ptg.org), is becoming one wonderful way to learn and share skills. I can click on communities and choose to join any that interest me, view them online, or have postings sent to my email in real time. (If you choose that option, remember to click on "save" to lock your choice in.) Not only do we have general topics, like Piano Tech and CAUT, but there are specific communities for voicing, concert regulation, harpsichord, piano history and more. We have our directory, books from our PTG store, and all our seminars available to us. We really do have a great team.

But don't forget to work on your fast ball.