

THE SOONER TUNER

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 Newsletter

Piano Technicians Guild

May 2015



Co-Presidents

David Bonham, RPT

Gary Bruce, RPT



Greetings fellow piano techs,

I hope this spring weather is to your liking and that no tornado damage comes your way. Of course it is May so the chances of that happening are always present this time of year in our neck of the woods. I'm thankful for inside work but am looking forward to more outdoor activity this spring and summer.

Some of that inside work includes regulating a Steinway S with new hammers, shanks, flanges, repetitions, keybed felt and a refurbished back action. We also have a Kawai KG-6C in for new strings, hammers and regulation, a Vose & Sons upright getting a complete rebuild and refinish, a Steinway O in the middle of getting a complete makeover and an Adam SchAAF upright getting new strings and action work. I recently had a business man friend ask how business was and stated that he didn't think there were many people playing the piano anymore. I assured him that there were lots of people still playing the piano and would be long in to the future. It's just pretty much the greatest musical instrument ever invented. Thanks Bartolomeo.

We have had several new chapter members come our way recently and some visitors at our chapter meetings who are interested in learning more about our craft. David Bruster has been around for a while but is now an official Associate member. Welcome David!

Toward the end of last year we decided to use the technical time in our monthly meetings to work through a self-evaluation document that we thought would be beneficial especially for our Associate members and less experienced RPTs. Over the past few months we've been working our way through that form and the reviews have been positive from both Associate and RPT members. The downside has been that many of those who we thought might benefit most were not present for many of those meetings. In any case, the discussion and information gleaned for those who were present was valuable, and for a few, it may have seemed like drinking from a fire hydrant. Take heart, even us 'old timers' are still learning. I'm thankful for and enjoy the opportunities we have to help each other become better technicians and thereby providing better service to our customers.

I hope to see you all soon.

Gary Bruce

Next Meeting

May 21st

8:30am

Oklahoma Christian University

Garvey Fine Arts Center

Edmond, OK 73136

[Directions](#) // [Google Maps](#)

405-413-8863

Our May meeting will be held again on the campus of Oklahoma Christian University in the Music Department located in the Garvey Fine Arts Center. Jim Geiger, our South Central Regional Vice President, will be coming to town and presenting the technical portion of our meeting. His chosen topic is a tuning related discussion about listening for beats and beat patterns. It should be an interesting and beneficial time. Jim is well known throughout the Guild for his teaching and leadership at the chapter, regional and national levels. Please plan on attending.

We will also be voting on our slate of officers for 2015-16.

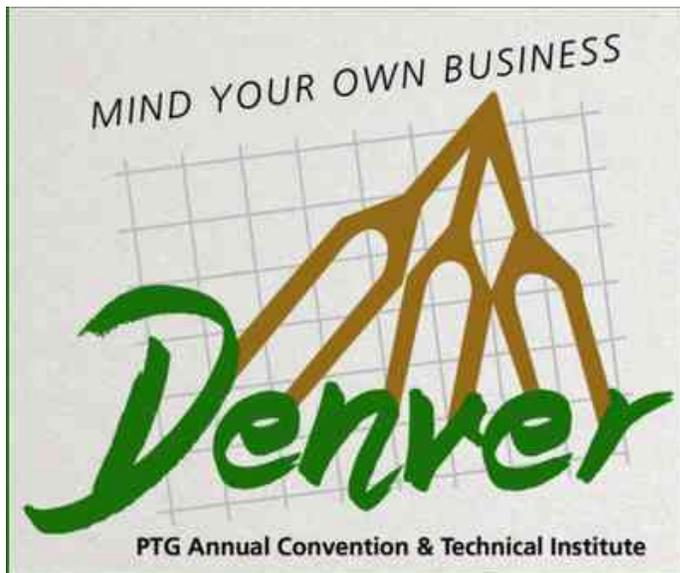


Secretary

Bob Scheer, RPT

The April 16th Central Oklahoma Chapter PTG monthly meeting was held at the Bruce piano warehouse and shop in Edmond. The meeting began with a prayer by David Bonham.

- In attendance: Keith Morgan, David Bonham, Gary Bruce, Jon Edwards, Bob Scheer and guest Alysa Woodward.
- Treasurers Report: \$2089.31. Our present bank account requires a minimum \$1500.00 balance. The previous account required a \$2000.00 balance to avoid additional fees.
- Old Business: Dale Probst plans to be our Chapter Delegate. Elizabeth Ward will be our alternate.
- Our Chapter has agreed to host a Regional Associate Seminar in Norman, Oklahoma on October 16-17, 2015.
- The nominees for Chapter Office for June 2015-May 2016 are as follows:
 - David Bonham and Gary Bruce, Co-Chair Presidency
 - Jamie Marks, Secretary, Gary Bruce, Treasurer
 - Keith McGavern, Newsletter Editor
- Please contact any of the existing Chapter officers, if you would like to join the list of nominees. • Jon Edwards expressed interest in helping with the Newsletter.
- The technical included additional discussion of the self evaluation questions concerning regulation and repair. Although the turn out was small, the participation was large.
- * The May meeting will include a technical presentation by our RVP Jim Geiger.



JULY 15TH-18TH
Registration began February 1st

Central Oklahoma Chapter Officers
June 2014 – May 2015

Co-Presidents

[David Bonham](#), RPT

[Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Newsletter Editor – [Keith McGavern](#), RPT

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Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Blue Book of Pianos](#)

[Piano Price Point](#)
by Glen Barkman

Street Piano Players
Play Me, I'm Yours

[Player in Paris / Player in Los Angeles](#)

[Player in London / Player in Liverpool](#)

[Players in Saint Michel](#)

Acrobats

[Acrobatic Gymnastics Worlds 2010 Ukraine](#)

[Chinese Acrobats / Duo Wind Acrobats](#)

[Kaleidoscope](#)

[Backstage Magic Trick](#)
[with Dan White](#)
[Oil and Water](#)

[Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge](#)

[M. Liminal made by Fazioli](#)

[Strobe Tuners](#)
(Their History and How they work)

[Holocaust Survivor Band](#)

Executive Outlook
May 2015
Getting Down the Road
Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President



Recently our family set out on a trip. I had serviced the car that would bear us safely down the highway before starting out. I checked the oil, monitored air pressure in the tires, topped off the wiper fluid and performed other routine maintenance. We left toward the end of the work day, hoping to get to our destination before too late in the evening, as we had a flight to catch the next day. As we rolled down the road, I noticed a strange vibration that began to affect the trip. I had recently purchased this vehicle and had driven it enough to feel confident in its performance, even though I had bought it used.

The vibrations were enough to cause concerns, so we pulled off the highway at a truck plaza a few miles from the mid-sized city we had just passed. I inspected the rear tires and discovered that one of them had a bulge, indicating tread separation. We climbed into the vehicle and drove the short distance back to the metro area to find a shop to provide a replacement tire. It was approaching 5:45 p.m. and we pulled into a local big-box store with an automotive department. We encountered a couple of surprises at this point. The first was that because the car had custom rims on it, they would not service it. Second, the custom rims required a special lug adapter to remove the wheels, and a search found none in the car. The guys at the service department said there was a local tire shop that could service our needs, but they closed at 6:00 and were about four miles away. The time was 5:58 and my hopes were fading fast. We headed in the direction of the tire shop, but were also keeping our eyes peeled for an auto parts store that might have one of the special lug adapters we would need to remove the wheel if we had to use the spare and creep back to civilization.

We got to the tire store at 6:04 and the bay doors were still up, so we pulled into the lot. The manager had compassion for us and agreed to sell us a tire and even an adapter for future use. They pulled our vehicle out of the service bay at 6:47 and we were gratefully on our way. I made sure to tip the young man who had worked late to get us on the road once again.

There are a couple of life lessons from this episode that apply to us as individuals and the organization we all share in PTG. First, there are always possibilities of unexpected events, no matter how well prepared you are when you begin an endeavor. Some of those unexpected events stem from conflicts at the very core or foundation of an integral piece of your life. Another lesson is how you respond when a problem presents itself. We could have blissfully waited until the tire exploded as we drove down the highway, which would have presented a host of possible outcomes, none of which seem pleasant. Or, we could have heeded the warning and taken action. We also had to depend on the assistance of another outside ourselves to address the problem. We as piano technicians are often “fixers” by nature, and we are apt to try to fix problems ourselves that are best solved by other professionals.

Warning signs can appear anywhere—a light on a car’s dashboard, a twinge in one’s back early in the morning, or an uneasy feeling while reviewing a contract or other legal document. The only thing we can be sure of is that there will be warning signs from time to time. Good contingency plans and thoughtful preparation are our best defenses when these situations arise. It sometimes takes courage to be proactive, but often it is what is required when we need to meet a crisis head-on.

Walworth piano



Weight Lifter



Weinstein Curvex Acousticon

