

THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



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There was not a December issue of the Sooner Tuner, due to the absence of news and contributions. This month is a different story!

COMING EVENTS:

January 19 Saturday 9:00 Chapter Meeting at Hart Piano Shop in Edmond. Business will include selection of the delegate for the national committee, committee reports (are you on a committee and should you perhaps have something ready to share?), and preliminary plans for the Regional Seminar coming next spring. Tim Hart, RTT, will present the technical program on pinblock repair with Falconwood plugs. He has prepared some slides from a recent upright repair, and he says each one of us present will have the chance to plug one tuning pin, note himself/herself.

Have you signed the petition "Music Makes the Difference" sponsored by the National Commission on Music Education? Consider signing it and distributing it and after our meeting Saturday. It seems quite consistent with the goals of the PTG. By the way, how well are we as a Chapter doing at pursuing our national and local goals??

February 16 Saturday 10:00 OCUSAO (that's Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts in Edmond, I think) Special Chapter Workshop with Danny Boone, RTT and South Central Regional Vice President. The focus is on the Guild tuning test, with the main event being a setting up of a grand piano for the administering of the test. Gary Bruce, RTT, and David Bonham, RTT, will assist. This will be an important event! More details will be in the February newsletter.

March 8-10 Alexandria, Louisiana: South Central Regional PTG Seminar. We need representation here, especially because we are doing the regional event next spring. How do they do it and how can we do it even better?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Tim Hart injured his left hand during Christmas week and is still unable to type. He has returned to tuning, but is limited and still somewhat uncomfortable. His horse reared up while Tim had his hand between a post and the rope, tearing skin off two of his fingers. It was not a pretty sight nor a pleasant experience. The following is distilled from a phone conversation with Tim.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? Any regarding your business? Consider taking this opportunity to affirm the positive rather than berating yourself for anything you failed to do in 1990. Do you appreciate your clientele, your abilities and your accomplishments? How has your knowledge increased over the last year? Take stock of all your assets, material and otherwise, and consider how God may have blessed your work and your family. Here's to a good beginning in a fresh new year!

John T. Hart (paraphrased)

TECH TIPS:

At a recent chapter meeting, Keith McGovern, RTT, told us of the ProTech center pin solution being marketed by Ford Supply for about \$5. He thinks it is pretty effective, and I for one plan to give it a try. -Ed

Having trouble moto-tool filing upright hammers? At a recent chapter meeting Norman Cantrell suggested removing the hammer rest rail to allow more room to clear adjacent hammers. At the same meeting, Norman and Ross Trawick, RTT, agreed on a preferred order for dismantling an upright action: hammer rest rail, hammer spring rail, dampers, whippens, hammers, and action rail brackets. Reassembly is the reverse order. Order might vary depending on the objectives for the particular job.

Maybe one of those suggestions will save you some time on a future job. Thanks team.

FORUM:

I have so far collected comments on the Damp Chaser systems and the Sanderson AccuTuner. I am open to future Forum topics as well, so what do you want to talk about?!

On the majority of pianos using humidity control system units I have seen positive results. However by sharing with you one negative situation that happened maybe you can avoid the same problem...or shed some light on where I went wrong.

One and a half years ago I installed a humidity control unit in a new baby grand which was experiencing a sluggish action and keys. (I installed the dehumidifier rod against the bottom of the keybed.) The sluggishness was eliminated, however during a recent tuning I noticed rust forming on the strings. I have now added a second dehumidifier rod under the soundboard to eliminate any further formation of rust.

By just following the installation instructions sent with the unit it eliminated one problem and created another. Time will tell whether or not the second rod will do the trick. If anyone has any words of wisdom on this subject I'd appreciate hearing from you.

Carol Bienemann, Assoc.

Thanks, Carol! Carol sent the instructions she refers to, and sure enough, nowhere do they state what I think is important here that a dehumidifier rod should always be paired up with any humidifier unit (and I mean closely paired up, sharing the same basic space and both controlled by the humidistat which needs to monitor that shared space). It is not certain that the rust was caused by the moisture of the humidifier, but a dehumidifier in the same compartment would at least serve to reduce the humidity during damp times. The humidifier continues to increase the humidity slightly even when it is not receiving current.

And from Gene Black, Assoc., another contributor for this month:

The SAT (Sanderson AccuTuner) is of great use to me when tuning spinets which are difficult in the upper range as a result of their scaling characteristics, or pianos that have serious false beat problems. In both cases I quite often mute all but the one string I am tuning and still have that one string sound like two. With pianos like that, to be able to reference a preset sound wave in the SAT is much quicker and easier than trying to listen to a bad string an octave or two lower and tune a bad string above. Let the SAT tell me what sound waves more closely match and then set the tuning pin at that point.

Gene Black, Assoc.

Thanks, Gene. Gene also wrote a three-page letter on the AccuTuner of which I will make copies available at the next meeting. It deals with his history of using electronic tuning instruments, some strengths and weaknesses of their use, and his method of tuning with the SAT.

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