

THE SOONER TUNER
Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
MARCH 2005

COMING EVENTS:

MARCH – The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 8:30 AM at Bob Scheer's shop, located at 4305 Sycamore Lane in Edmond, Oklahoma. Bob will be presenting a technical on "Vertical Hammer Filing and Voicing."

APRIL – The April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2005 at 8:30 AM at Norman Cantrell's shop in Lawton, Oklahoma. The topic for the technical will be announced later, along with the address of Norman's shop.

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ANOTHER PIANO RELATED DREAM...

This time I ended up tuning a piano with a plastic pin block, but for some reason, I didn't realize it until I was halfway through the tuning when I came upon a tuning pin that wouldn't hold. It was then that I saw hairline cracks all over the place in an ivory-yellowed pin block. Woe was me.

Keith McGavern, RPT
Shawnee, OK

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GREAT MOMENTS ARE BORN IN GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

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LONG BIKE TRIP

A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Phoenix to Flagstaff, Arizona (about 140 miles). He got as far as Black Canyon City (about 40 miles) before the mountains just became too much and he could go no farther. He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally, a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the highway and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he went too fast, to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down.

Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes, both going well over 120 MPH, blew through a speed trap. The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed to the other officer that he had two Corvettes headed his way at over 120 MPH. He then relayed, "...and you're not going to believe this, but there's a guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."

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OPPORTUNITY IS SO OFTEN DISGUISED AS A PROBLEM.

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HAVE A BLESSED EASTER SEASON

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I have had a difficult time getting this issue to press. I have been hoping for contributions from some of you, but very little has come in this month. I, myself, seem to be suffering from writer's block this month. I looked at the calendar and decided to focus on special holidays during the month of March. March brings St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring and Easter. Since the majority of us are not Irish and I cannot get too excited about drinking a glass of green beer, St. Patrick's Day doesn't seem like a very good topic on which to write. The arrival of spring, followed very closely by Easter this year, seems to tie closely together. Spring is the unfolding of new life. Look around and you'll see trees beginning to bud, the daffodils and tulips are peeking out of the ground and ready to burst forth into bloom. The birds are singing happily as the days begin to warm and the sun shines longer into the evening. Spring and Easter seem to go hand in hand. Easter is the spring of Christianity. It is because of the sacrifice Christ made for each of us that we can celebrate new life in the spirit. As you look around and experience the physical signs of spring this year, I hope that you will also appreciate the spiritual renewal that takes place within each of us because of Easter. It is my wish that each of you will be blessed as we celebrate the holiest of religious holidays this month.

Barbara Bonham
Newsletter Editor

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ON BEING A MEMBER:

As a member of the PTG, a professional organization, it is appropriate to periodically consider the meaning and value of that membership. What are the expectations, the rights, privileges and responsibilities? I am aware that such questions can lead to discomfort and disagreement, but I believe that an open and healthy dialog about them is normal and necessary for us individually, as a local chapter, and as a national organization.

It is important for us to challenge ourselves and each other to fulfill the PTG Code of Ethics, found on our membership cards. This includes a commitment to upgrade our professional skills and encourage and help others to do the same. If you feel some pressure to move from your Associate Member status to Registered Piano Technician status, that is what you are supposed to feel. There are students in colleges who have been going to classes for 6 years or more but are not ready to graduate. That is not all bad – hopefully they are still learning and growing. But if you are serious about being a professional piano technician (not just a hobbyist, dabbler or tinkerer) and you have joined PTG, then you must be on the path to graduation. You should know where you are on the path and have a sense of your timetable for graduation, which is taking the written, tuning and technical tests. If my stating this so directly offends anyone, then maybe you did not read what you were signing up for, or you conveniently forgot. Don't get hurt, mad or indignant; just step up to the plate in due time, humble yourself to take the tests, and graduate! After it feels scary, it feels good...so do the right thing. It is part of the promise you made so it is a matter of integrity. Anyone earning a living in this profession who claims to be a PTG member but who is not busy moving from Associate to RPT status is freeloading on our organization.

I am proud to be a member of this chapter. We are one of the most open, warm and welcoming chapters in the nation, offering the most generous sharing of insider professional expertise. This is a major reason why I feel compelled to share what I have said here, and why I believe our chapter ought to be a model for professional

growth and the graduation of registered piano technicians.

David Bonham, RPT
Oklahoma City, OK

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I've learned...
That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

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President – Bob Scheer
Vice President – Ben Davis
Secretary – Keith McGavern
Treasurer – Gary Bruce
Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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