

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
September 2008

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER – Our PTG meeting will be held at Jordan Bruce's house at 9713 Hillcrest Dr, Edmond, OK, 73025 on September 18th at 8:30am.

If you go to Kelley and Waterloo, go 2 miles North on Kelley until the first stop sign which is Charter Oak. Take a right, then an immediate left which is Hillcrest. His house is the third one on the left, it has a green mailbox and it says Bruce on it. His cell is (405) 314-2407 if anyone needs directions or you can call Gary at (405) 413-8863.

The technical will be 2 fold::

- 1) Bob Scheer will discuss the physics of tuning with emphasis on manipulating the tuning hammer.
- 2) There are three spinet actions there and I will demonstrate how I remove a spinet action. That ought to be a hoot!

There is lots of room at Jordan's and his shop is large with plenty of pianos in there. See you then.

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All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.
--Walt Disney

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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We have recently learned that our Chapter has lost another fellow RPT and friend. Don Stephens was a great asset to our Chapter for many years. He served numerous times as a Chapter officer, instructor, and tuning examiner. He worked at Oklahoma University as their on staff technician for over 25 years. I remember many of Dons Chapter technicals during the 70's, and I don't remember being around him when I didn't learn something. He was always ready and eager to share his vast knowledge. He made a major contribution to PTG and he will be missed.

Bob
Bob Scheer, RPT
Edmond, OK

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My mom says the only reason men are alive is for lawn care and vehicle maintenance
--Tim Allen

Customer Complaint on Tuning

A true story.

I just finished tuning an old but decent upright for a weathered and wise cowboy on the West Side of Albuquerque, got the unisons as clean as I could. I start playing the piano and the old cowboy appears in the doorway ---large Stetson and belt buckle, thumbs in his waistband, a large shoulder leaning on the doorjamb and, with a thick western drawl, says, "My, my, that sure sounds purrty. And I sure do like that classical music sometimes." I was playing Misty. I said something like, yes sir, the old workhorse tuned up pretty well and started to pack my tools. "There's only one thang wrong with it", he continued and moved out of the doorway. "Oh, what's that?" I asked. "You took the twang out." "The twang?" "Yes sir, the twang. You know, that honky-tonk thang like ya hear in the old western movies."

"OHHH, The TWANG!" I continued, "Well sir, as piano tuners we go to no small trouble to take the twang out. In fact it is a big part of what we do." He chuckled, tipped his hat back a bit and suggested, "You mean you good folks maybe ought call yourselves 'de-twanglers'." (I actually considered pitching this idea to Jack Wyatt and my friends down in Texas). He continued, "Listen, I know you worked hard, and the pianna sounds real nice for your kind of music, but I sure miss that twang. Can you put it back? I'd be happy to pay more if your need it."

By now I was grinning ear to ear, and the old cowboy too, who was beginning to look like John Wayne. And who can refuse John Wayne when he puts on the charm? I said, "No problem, this one's on the house! Drinks all around!" And I knocked all the left string unisons slightly out. He played some old western tune, slapped his knee and kicked his boot heels on the wood floor and was happier than a pig in slop (or something like that).

The pianna NEVER sounded this good! He insisted I leave my card. He was going to tell his friends about the de-twanger he had had good occasion to visit with. I never heard from him again. But I'm sure the pianna aged beautifully as the months and years went by.

Respectfully,

Nick Gravagne, RPT
Piano Technicians Guild
Member Society Manufacturing Engineers
(submitted by Keith McGavern)

"I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done."
--Lucille Ball

Technical articles were a little harder to come by this month!
There's always next month.

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President – Bob Scheer  
Vice President – David Bonham  
Secretary – Jordan Bruce  
Treasurer – Gary Bruce  
Newsletter Editor – Blane Morris

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