

# *THE SOONER TUNER*

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

*[Piano Technicians Guild](#)*

*January 2013*



Oklahoma Chapter President  
David Bonham, RPT

## President's Message

Here we are, one week into a new year. How do you want this one to be different? I don't want to know your resolutions. I have another idea; one we have talked about before but haven't followed through with. Before I send out my next article I want to hear from each of you, stating where you see the piano work going in your life. Are you expanding, cutting back, trying to retire, specializing...? Do you want to attract more customers, do less tuning and more shop work, learn new skills or get more organized? These are just a few possible answers. Please respond honestly and soon, so I can incorporate your responses into next month's newsletter. I think we would each benefit from knowing more about each other's interests, specialties, and desires. Perhaps you have a piano work task you avoid or suffer through which might be the favorite task of another chapter member. Some sharing of jobs could result from this, as well as suggestions for future technical programs.

I would trade a tuning in Arcadia for one in Surrey Hills...or a grand regulation for a restringing job...or a cross-country move for a refinishing.

Let's give this a try. Be bold and let us know you better, whether you come to our meetings or not. Tim, Ben, Peter, Keith, and others: I hope you respond so that I don't have to make one up for you! Email me at [davidbonham1@cox.net](mailto:davidbonham1@cox.net)

I'll see some of you at Edmond Music on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

David Bonham, RPT



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President  
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting  
Thursday  
January 17th

### Location

#### Edmond Music

3400 S Broadway  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405-348-0004

Technical presentation will be by Eric Williams and/or Mike Gilliam.



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary  
Bob Scheer, RPT

Although there was no formal Chapter meeting in December, special thanks goes out to David and Barbara Bonham for their fine hospitality and fabulous dinner in hosting the Chapter Christmas party.

I swear, Barbara could open up a gourmet restaurant and make a fortune! The gift exchange was fun, and the camaraderie even better. All in all, I think everyone had an enjoyable time. I wish everyone could have been there!

Tech Tip: Don't forget to bring your glue inside. If it freezes, it's worthless!

Bob



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Jessica Williams](#)  
(pianist and composer)

[Evian Babies](#)

[Mazzaglia Tools](#)

[Rhema Marvanne](#)  
(young gospel dinger)

[Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II](#)

[Buddy Rich](#)  
(drummer and bandleader)

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“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”

*A Weber. 1880s' original finish*

pics posted by  
Dale Erwin, RPT  
on Pianotech Listserv  
(December 24, 2012)



January 2013  
Executive Outlook  
Submitted by  
Paul Brown, RPT  
Pacific Northwest Regional Vice President



### **Are You Observant?**

Most of us do not take the time to notice things during our daily lives. We get up in the morning, rush off to tune pianos for most of the day, stop for some fast food between jobs and get back home feeling exhausted. We have no time to notice specific details during the day. Let me give you some examples.

At a customer's home, a small child and her mother were watching me do a polyester repair on their grand piano. The child asked her mother: "Mommy, what's the man doing?"

She replied: "He's fixing the piano, dear."

The child then stated: "Oh! When I grow up, I'm going to fix things too, and then when you die and I die and everybody else dies there will be nobody left around to worry about anybody else."

Quite a statement from someone so young!

Another observation was made by a grade seven student while I was assisting my mentor, Gerry Caunter, at a customer's home. Knowing the young man basically ran the household, Gerry asked him: "Why do you think the bass wires are wound with copper?"

The young man instantly replied: "Probably to slow down the vibrations to produce a lower tone."

How many teenagers would have come up with such an intelligent reply?

At my first PTG Convention, Donn G. Foli told me to observe very carefully the right shoulders of elderly tuners. I was quite surprised that many of them were shrugging their shoulders as if they were in pain or discomfort. Donn mentioned that most tuners were trained to tune only with their right hands, and that it would be in my best interest to tune right- and left-handed. I followed his advice and have never experienced any physical disabilities from doing my work.

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January 2013

Executive Outlook

Submitted by

Paul Brown, RPT

Pacific Northwest Regional Vice President



### **Are You Observant? (continued)**

That observation by Donn molded my outlook on how to best progress in piano technology. I have since discovered that many technicians do things quite differently but still achieve excellent results. If you ever sit in on a master tuning session at the convention you will be quite surprised at the different techniques and interval checks used. Every new technique or check that I observe is immediately incorporated into my repertoire, and sometimes I find myself discarding techniques that I originally thought were very useful.

After many years of tuning, I have come across an observation that is quite fascinating. Some pianos are a pleasure to tune, but when you play them, something is lost, like the aroma of coffee being absent from a freshly brewed cup. Other pianos are a real pain to tune, but the frustration is more than made up for when you play them at the end of your work. They sound wonderful!

The best way to become more observant is to attend as many chapter meetings, all-day seminars, regional conferences and PTG conventions as possible. You might even decide to teach a class or give a technical demonstration so others can observe you! I realize that putting yourself on the firing line may not be comfortable, but it is worth it to learn a new way of doing something.

If you decide not to attend outside tuning and technical events, you only practice old habits without the possibility of enhancing your skills. If you are unable to travel, there are opportunities to observe excellent digital resources online. Be sure to check out the PTG YouTube Channel and the Journal video link. There you can observe technicians demonstrating the latest skills in video format. To visit the PTG video resources, go to [my.ptg.org](http://my.ptg.org) and click the link icons at the lower right of the page. Next month's Executive Outlook will be by South Central Regional Vice President Steve Walthall, RPT.





# WESTPAC III

March 7-10, 2013

Hyatt Regency Downtown  
Phoenix, AZ

[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Instructors](#) [Classes](#) [Special Events](#) [Exhibitors](#) [Location/Hotel](#) [Registration](#) [Contact Us](#)

Winter is a great time  
to visit Phoenix!

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SCRAMBLE

"What Every Technician Should Know"  
Mini-Techs will feature eighteen  
40-minute bite size classes. Three  
periods, with six classes in each  
period. Something for everyone.

[Details >>](#)

## Grand Regulation Actionpalooza

This all-day class sponsored by Renner  
USA, is the popular Are You Still  
Regulationally Challenged class on  
"steroids." Each student will regulate a  
grand action model according to a  
step-by-step procedure.

**Limit 24 Participants**  
**Pre-registration Required**

Plus many **first-time classes**, never  
before seen, on hammer selection,  
voicing, refinishing, and action  
geometry.

[Details on all classes >>](#)

With consistently sunny skies and  
temperatures hovering between the high  
60s and mid-70s, this desert metropolis  
offers a little taste of summer. While the  
rest of the country is donning raincoats and  
thermal underwear, you can be warming up  
in The Valley of the Sun.

[Online registration is now available!](#)

**Start budgeting your education dollars  
now for the 2013 conference!**



**Make your hotel reservations today for  
the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix.**

Rooms at our group rate  
of \$129 are limited.

For details about the hotel,  
see our [Location/Hotel](#) page.

- ☒ **Great Classes**
- ☒ **Great Instructors**
- ☒ **Great Exhibitors**
- ☒ **Great Hotel**

Our Amazing Line Up  
of Instructors

Wally Brooks  
Chris Brown  
Mark Burgett  
Dave Carpenter  
Mike Carraher  
Bruce Clark  
Jim Coleman, Sr.  
Jim Coleman, Jr.  
Debra Cyr  
LaRoy Edwards  
Del Fandrich  
Rick Florence  
Anne Garee  
Nick Gravagne

[Click here for instructor bios](#)

## ALL YOUR FAVORITE EXHIBITORS

Including a Renner parts  
"Blow Out Sale"

[Exhibitors page](#)

**Metal dampers**  
pic posted by  
Bruce Gibson  
on Pianotech Listserve  
(December 21, 2012)

