

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

December 2013



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

It is quite wintery here, feeling a lot like Christmas... I had hoped to be reporting on the Christmas Dinner which was scheduled for last Friday, but the weather and road conditions caused us to have to cancel it. At this time there are no plans for rescheduling it, although someone mentioned the possibility of a New Years event. I hope this reading finds you safe and warm and on schedule with your seasonal tunings and your Christmas preparations!

The day before Thanksgiving, Barbara and I returned from another piano moving adventure. The previous week we left with two grands, a studio upright, and a small electronic organ and headed east. We delivered the first grand to the Indianapolis area and moved on to New York City. The second grand went to a very nice condominium near Central Park. Have you ever driven down Broadway? In an RV? Pulling a trailer? In the rain? Definitely an adventure! We had to double-park there and at our next address just a few blocks away where we picked up a console to bring back to Norman, Ok. Then we drove north for over two hours to go about fifteen miles. There we loaded a 7ft Boston grand bound for Durant, OK. Late that same evening we delivered the organ to Newark, Delaware. On the following morning, we delivered the studio upright to Leesburg, Virginia. With all the piano handling completed until our return to Oklahoma, we headed to Hagerstown, Maryland to visit my college roommate, Austin, and his wife, Kathy. Austin and I attended Oberlin College back in the 70's, and I serviced many of the pianos in that Ohio town. We shared a room until he got inspired to transfer to Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City to become a piano technician himself.

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Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

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I was concerned about a groaning noise coming from the back of the RV as we traveled through New Jersey and Maryland and I was sure the trailer hitch was angling down towards the rear more than it had been before. Now that the rain had stopped and I had a safe space to park and climb under the vehicle, I did an inspection with Austin. We found that the rear frame extensions bolted to the chassis to hold up the "house" and support the trailer hitch had failed. They were badly cracked, bent, and the trailer hitch bolts were pulling out of them. Austin's conclusion was that we needed to rent a different vehicle to pull the trailer home. I was dismayed and disappointed, but determined to explore all our options before giving up on getting home with the trailer attached to the RV. We put our heads together, drew pictures, talked and stayed inside their house most of the time because the cold front had caught up with us and the temperature was now below 30 degrees. I had the pianos in the trailer heated and double-wrapped to keep them from getting too cold. After a lot of discussion, dinner, and a good night's sleep, we went to Lowe's and purchased four more ratchet straps to go with the two I had with me. I wrapped the trailer hitch on each side to the part of the frame that was still intact with two of the straps. I then used the last two to support the coupler of the hitch to the spare tire mount on the back of the RV. These two straps actually held the majority of the trailer tongue weight. Then I attached a poly tow strap from the trailer frame to the actual chassis ahead of the frame extensions, so that even if these totally failed the trailer could not get away from us. Hours later we were on our way, driving now at speeds under 60 mph and stopping hourly to check on the straps. They did need periodic tightening, but they got us home! We won't be using the RV to pull a trailer until we get the problem solved.

Ingenuity, collaboration, and improvisation. Works for music and all sorts of other things. That's part of what I like about our Guild. We are smarter and more capable when we share our thoughts and experiences. Have a great Christmas!



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday
January 16th
8:30am

[Bruce Piano Showroom](#)
13782 N Lincoln Blvd
[Edmond, OK](#) 73130
405-285-8324

[Tim Hast](#), Licensed Professional Counselor (and former RPT) will be with us and present a technical on "Customer Relations".

February meeting will be on the 20th (location TBA) and [Greg Lynch](#), RPT from the Tulsa, OK Chapter will be with us. He will present a technical entitled "Mein Kampf" which will be the telling of his experience replacing the Teflon bushings in a Steinway & Sons D.

The balance in our checking account as of Nov. 30, 2013 is \$2,761.60.



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

Minutes from November 21, 2013 PTG meeting:

The meeting was held at Larsen Music Store, and began with a prayer by Norman Cantrell at 8:57 AM. Members present were Gary Bruce, Nathan Sobel, Keith Morgan, Keith McGavern, Brad Broomfield, Norman Cantrell and Bob Scheer.

The minutes from the October 2013 meeting were read and approved.

Our treasurer reported a balance of \$2,832.75

The motion approved at the October meeting concerning the Chapter name change from "Oklahoma Chapter PTG" to "Central Oklahoma Chapter PTG" was discussed, and the process has begun with notification to the SCRVP, and the name change will hopefully be approved at the Board Meeting in January.

Congratulations to Jonathan Edwards who is now an Associate Member.

Special thanks to Walt Myrick and Larsen Music for hosting the meeting, for the warm welcome, and for the delicious coffee and pastries. Walt gave the technical presentation explaining the new Yamaha CFX Series. He gave a very informative presentation and was much appreciated.

Piano Links

[*Upcoming Piano Technicians Guild Events*](#)

(Regional and National events, 2014-15)

[*Piano Technicians Guild Channel*](#)

(These videos are referenced by the Piano Technician Journal)
(Thanks to Jordan Bruce for the impetus to post this link)

[*Virtual Piano Appraisal*](#)

(This virtual-piano-appraisal link can save you some time and educate customers
all in a very nice easy going way ... David Estey, RPT)

[*Determine The Condition of Your Piano*](#)

(This .pdf won't make you an expert, nor will it solve your technical problems,
but it will help you spot a nightmare in the making ... David Estey, RPT)

Oklahoma Chapter Officers

June 2013 – May 2014

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT

Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

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

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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.”



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

(May 2014 is scheduled to be my last month as newsletter editor.)

[Harpa Concert Hall](#)
(Reykjavik, Iceland)

[Two Man Lift](#)
(Concert Grand Piano Move)

[Anna Graceman](#)
(American folk, rock and soul singer-songwriter and pianist)

[Leann Rimes](#)
(American Country and Pop Singer.)

[Gary Burton / Julian Lage](#)
(Jazz Vibraphone / Guitarist)

[Pianomania](#)
(Theatrical Trailer)

[Emanuel Ax](#)
(Beethoven Masterclass)

[First Time Ever I Saw Your Face](#)
(Roberta Flack, 1972)

[Capturing Infinity](#)
(Thomas Wieting)

[Ethel Waters](#)
(Georgia On My Mind, 1939)

[Thalasso Bain Bébé Jumeaux](#)
(Twin Baby Bath)

[Everybody's Someone](#)
(duet)

[Debashish Bhattacharya](#)
Tiny Desk Concert

TPR Tools LLC
(Chris Brown, RPT)



Grandwork™ Regulation Station Set-up
(Nine (9) videos)

TPR Tools - Custom Keybed Setup Part 1- Setting Up Rails and Blocks

TPR Tools Custom Keybed Setup #2 Bedding to the Keyframe

TPR Tools - Custom Keybed Setup Part 3- Recreating the Dip

(Tks to Dale Probst, RPT)



News You Can Use

Attention All Chapter Officers

2014 Leadership Challenge

The PTG Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new program for 2014 designed to identify and develop future PTG leaders. The Leadership Challenge is the mechanism by which we hope to accomplish these things.

We are asking that each chapter select at least one individual who has: 1) not attended the PTG annual convention in the past seven years, 2) a record of being involved at the chapter or regional level and, 3) exhibited leadership potential. Up to twenty applicants will be selected to **receive one-half off the price of registration and \$500** to help defray the cost of attending the annual convention in Atlanta, GA next July.

As part of the Leadership Challenge, each recipient will be expected to attend a two-part leadership development class to be held first and second period on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. This class will be taught by Allan Gilreath, RPT.* Applicants must be willing to write a short article to be used in chapter newsletters or other PTG publications about their experience. Article topics could include the overall experience regarding the Leadership Challenge, the Leadership class itself or the experience of attending the annual convention for the first time. This article is intended to capture the interest of others, to get them involved in PTG, and to encourage attendance at the annual convention.

PTG needs volunteers with leadership skills and time to give to the organization. The problem is finding these people who have the desire to get involved, but don't know how to go about it or who have simply not been asked; this is where you come in. We are asking chapter officers to help identify future PTG leaders.

You can find a link to the application and instructions on how to apply on the home page of www.ptg.org. We hope that you will encourage your chapter members to take part in the program. Remember, the recipient gets one-half off the price of registration and \$500 cash to attend the PTG Convention and Technical Institute. If you have any questions regarding this program please feel free to contact the Home Office at 913-432-9975 or ptg@ptg.org.

Best,

Norman Cantrell
President

**Allan is a past president of PTG and served as president of his local PTG Chapter. He was a member of the PTG Executive Board from 2003 - 2010, was the 2002 Institute Director, and has served on numerous PTG committees at both the national and local levels. Allan now enjoys working with youth and serves as Scoutmaster of his son's Boy Scout troop. He served as a Scoutmaster at the 2013 National Jamboree and conducts leadership training sessions for both youth and adults in the Scouting program.*

PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

by Gary Bruce, RPT

December 3, 2013

Jan and I recently enjoyed a visit to some antique shops in Guthrie. At one shop I found some old “The Etude” music magazines that I bought to give to a couple of my kids for Christmas (not you, Jordan). In one of these magazines, dated November 1939, there was a small article entitled “A Standard Musical Pitch”. It noted that “the International Standards Association on musical acoustics, at its last meeting in London, recommended very strongly that the pitch of 440 cycles per second for the A in the second space of the treble staff be adopted”. A440 had already been approved by the American Standards Association. Paul Billhuber, who was the chairman of the ASA Subcommittee on Musical Terminology and the assistant factory manager of Steinway & Sons was quoted as saying “Confusion more or less dangerous and damaging to musical performance has been the rule in the past rather than the exception.”

I was trying to imagine what it would be like as a musician and/or piano technician in a world where there was no defined pitch standard. I’m quite content to live in the present, but I often give my imagination a little slack and wonder what it would have been like, or will be like, to live in another time. In reading about and studying times gone by I usually find myself thankful for the comforts and innovations that we enjoy though I will try at times to deny myself some modern comfort that I take for granted, just to try to experience the past – like choosing to make a cut with a hand saw instead of using my electric table saw or mitre box, or reading by candlelight at night instead of just flipping the switch.

My attempts to anticipate the future are a little more difficult to describe, so I won’t try. But have you heard about the 3D printers that are becoming more available to create items? Can you imagine that in a few more years, if you need a new tool or part or a piano, all you will need to do is to feed the dimensions into your 3D printer and voila!!

While the future remains shrouded in mystery, imagination and the unknown, it’s fun and sobering to speculate that in another 75 years our current innovations will be as far in the past as the A440 international standard is to us today.

Half-time piano technology instructor

The North Bennet Street School in Boston seeks a part-time instructor for the full-time Piano Technology 1 program. This instructor presents the theoretical, technical and practical material involved in the piano technology trade and is responsible for preparation and presentation of all instructional material. Start date is Sept 2014. Complete details online at <http://www.nbss.edu/jobs>

Debbie Cyr, RPT

Instructor, Piano Technology Dept
North Bennet St. School
150 North St.
Boston, MA 02109
617-227-2357
www.nbss.edu

**Please note our new address:
150 North Street, Boston, MA 02109.
Phone, fax and email are the same.**