

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

January 2014



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

It's 4 degrees outside. The lake behind our house is frozen over, and the ducks and geese are huddled together by the island. Getting back into bed seems like the most attractive option. Yet the sun is shining, the sky is a beautiful blue, and life goes on. What gets you up in the morning, and what keeps you going through the day? I would answer: my alarm clock, my wife, the expectations of the people I've made commitments to ... and in all my better moments, I would say my faith, my understanding of the role I am to play in this world, and the joy and appreciation in and for this gift of Life.

When I reflect on this question at the beginning of a fresh new year, several memories from this past week come to mind. I tuned a Baldwin Acrosonic for a Chinese American family that ranged from 30 to 90 cents below pitch. It came out pretty well after two tunings. The son, about 14 years old, arrived home while I was completing the job. He sat down and played the piano and enthusiastically said a lot of things to his mother. I don't know what he said, because he was speaking Chinese, but I heard the word "fantastic", and I felt great about the efforts of my previous two hours. I knew then that I had impacted his life in a meaningful way.

Last Thursday Barbara and I were preparing to leave for a move of a Kawai professional upright. It had belonged to a retired doctor who was one of the sweetest men I have ever met. I had sold him the piano, and he had been a faithful customer for the past eight years. He loved that instrument! Sadly, he died on Christmas day, and Barbara and I were about to meet some of his family and to re-acquire that piano. People and things come and go in this life.

As if that job was not enough to remind us about the temporal and fragile nature of our existence, we almost lost our treasured pet, Goliath, as we were preparing to get in the car to depart for the move. The neighbor's dog, Cooper (about a 70 pound [Catahoula](#)), jumped out of their car and charged across our yard at Goliath, who was walking about forty feet from me. I yelled, as did the neighbor, but Cooper hit Goliath (four pound [Pomeranian](#)) at full speed and sent him rolling across the yard. Our piano move was delayed as we were diverted to the veterinary clinic. The doctor who stitched him up ([see pic](#)), said he was very lucky to be alive. He seems to be healing well, and we are expecting a full recovery. (The neighbors are most concerned and apologetic, and they are covering the medical expenses)

I hope you are doing well and keeping warm today. I will look forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting.

David Bonham, RPT



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
January 16th
8:30am

Bruce Piano Showroom
13782 N Lincoln Blvd
Edmond, OK 73130
405-285-8324

We just heard from [Tim Hast](#), Licensed Professional Counselor (and former RPT) that he's not going to be able to be present at our meeting next week. We'll try to get him on the docket for some time in the future.

Jordan has a couple moving tools to demonstrate, and I'd like to invite all attendees to bring some brief presentation, tool or experience to share with the group at our technical time for next Thursday, January 16th at Bruce Piano Showroom, 13782 N Lincoln Blvd., Edmond, OK.

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



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

Happy New Year All!

Since the Christmas party was snowed out, and we didn't have a December meeting, I'm not sure what to write, but I did think of something.

How about a belated Christmas joke?

Q: if Rudolph was the most famous reindeer of all, who was the meanest reindeer?

Give up?

A: Olive, the OTHER reindeer, used to laugh and call him names!

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
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Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

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

[Replacing Treble Bridge Cap](#)
(Michael Szecsenyi)

[Cantabile Piano Arts](#)
(vimeo)

[Just and Equal Temperament Demo](#)
(Nerds Central)

[Unconditionally](#)
(Katy Perry)

[La Solitudine](#)
(Laura Pausini & Lara Fabian)

[Separate Lives](#)
(Phil Collins & Laura Pausini)

[Anna plays Clair de Lune](#)
(Masterclass with Lang Lang)

[My Funny Valentine](#)
(Alice Fredenham, Britain's Got Talent)

[Benjamin Earl](#)
(fools Penn and Teller)

[Lippen scheweigen](#)
(Andre Rieu)

[Bon Iver](#)
(I Can't Make You Love Me / Nick of Time)

[The Immortal Piano Company](#)

Executive Outlook
January 2014
A New Year in PTG

*Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President*



The ball has dropped in Times Square and the New Year's Eve parties have wound down. College football bowl games are occupying a large amount of air time, and it is officially the new year. Did anyone see any national coverage of pianos and piano technology during the parades, news stories and celebrations? Probably not.

Just how does PTG fit in to the new year? If I am in the process of making new years' resolutions, just what part will PTG play in my life? If there is any leftover Scrooge hanging around, he may be saying, "PTG, why bother!"

A recent thread on the PTG-L discussion group asked a similar question, and there was some dialogue about the benefits of being a member of PTG. Many of us are familiar with the ad campaign of one of the major credit cards that stated, "Membership has its privileges." PTG has two types of member benefits. There are the tangibles such as the Journal and the PTG Web site. I have heard some people complain about the Journal not being the way it used to be. They feel the content is not high quality anymore. My question to them is, "When was the last time you submitted an article?" The technical information comes from us. We are the ones out there developing techniques and procedure and then sharing them with our fellow technicians.

If you think the Web site doesn't benefit you, I would challenge you to go to the main www.ptg.org site, where there is a bounty of information. If you have never visited the Learning Center, I would encourage you to do so. There are sections for both students and teachers. Making these links available to your teacher clients and the student section available for their students can be a helpful marketing tool for you. While you are online, visit the Member Area and look through each of the Benefits, Business and Marketing, Certification, Chapter Resources, and Journal Resources areas. You could spend the time of an entire bowl game just clicking on the various tabs on the Web site and learning what we have available.

There are also intangible benefits to being a member of PTG. Over the years I have had the privilege of meeting some of the best people from all across the United States and Canada. I have also met technicians from around the world who share the common experience of servicing pianos. Some of my best friends are members of my local chapter. I realize that not all chapters are vibrant and active. That is a real shame, because I have been able to share life with the members of my local chapter. In the chapter newsletter we have shared birth announcements and sorrows of losing loved ones. We have been there to encourage one another when business had a bump in the road. Having someone you can trust to fill in for you when you have to be away is a priceless benefit for both you and your customers. If your chapter is not as active as you would like, you can always make personal connections with other technicians on the discussion groups on the my.ptg.org Web site. We have a variety of topic-based groups that you can join and exchange questions and comments as often as you would like.

Did I mention the opportunity to sharpen your skills through continuing education? Each seminar and conference you attend gives you tools to be a better technician and businessperson. I could go on and on about the many topics available this year in Atlanta, but it is time for the kickoff of the next bowl game. Pass the chips and dip, and have a Happy New Year!

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)

