

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

February 2014



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

This past Monday I did a job that reminded me what a privilege it is to work on fine pianos. I tuned and did some regulation on a Bosendorfer Imperial. What an awesome instrument! All nine and one-half feet and ninety seven keys...I was moved by the sight and sound of it, and I was humbled in its presence. I was inspired to stretch the limits of my abilities and honored to be trusted to make the needed changes in how it should feel and sound. What a contrast from the Winter spinet and (Chinese) Hamilton of the week before!

The main steps I took in regulating involved raising the hammer line, adjusting let-off and drop. However, the most dramatic change in touch was the result of easing the keys. They were extremely tight on the balance rail pins, and every one required the use of the wedge-shaped tool designed for that purpose. Polishing and lubricating all the key pins as well as the capstans, knuckles, and other friction points in the action also contributed to the satisfying result.

The tuning involved raising the pitch about ten cents. As each interval or unison came into alignment, the quality of the sound was amazing. It was rich and full; round and pleasing to my ears. The sustain was impressive. I don't play well, but I enjoyed trying what I knew, and it sounded way better than ever before.

To top off the experience, the owner of this magnificent instrument sat down and played it for me when I was finished. What a treat! He really lit it up and showed his appreciation for all my work. He shared stories from his past as the keyboard player of a well-known rhythm and blues/rock band out of Detroit most famous for their hits in the 1970's.

These opportunities come along only once in a while, so try to be ready and enjoy them fully! And come share at our next meeting your joys and/or woes from this great occupation we have in common.



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
February 20th
8:30am

[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.

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





Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

Minutes from Jan.16, 2014 PTG Chapter meeting:

The meeting began with a prayer by Gary Bruce at 8:56am.

The meeting was held at the Bruce Piano Showroom on Lincoln Ave. in Edmond.

Seven members were present: Keith MacGavern, Keith Morgan, Brad Bloomfield, Gary Bruce, Jordan Bruce, Bob Scheer and Jon Edwards. We welcomed one guest, Greg Cochran.

The treasurers report yielded a balance of \$2,761.91.

Old Business: Goliath Bonham is slowly recuperating but doing well, after an attack from a large dog. We hope that he fully recovers soon.

New Business: A motion was made by Gary Bruce and seconded by Keith McGavern to apply for a credit card in the Oklahoma Chapters name, in order to make incidental payments, ie; Chapter lunches etc. and eliminate reimbursements. Also, the names and signatures of the current Chapter President, the current Chapter Secretary and the current Chapter Treasurer would be on file with the bank. The motion passed.

Another motion was made by Gary Bruce and seconded by Bob Scheer to research the possibility of purchasing a complete set of "Pace Technical" books from the PTG Home Office for the Chapter to provide a format for future Chapter technical presentations. The motion passed.

After a short break, new tools, concepts and problem solving issues were provided by the group in an open forum.

Lunch was enjoyed at "Alfredo's" Mexican restaurant on 33rd and Broadway in Edmond.



Piano Links

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

(Regional and National events, 2014-15)

[*Piano Technicians Journal Media*](#)

(These videos are referenced by the Piano Technician Journal)

[*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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Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Liberty Piano](#)

[Falkirk Wheel](#)

[Toddler naps with his 2 month old puppy every day](#)
(pics)

[The Golden Age of Pianos Exhibition](#)
(presented by Besbrode Pianos Leeds)

[Erick Lund](#)
(a Mormon, Optimist, and Wounded Soldier)

[Miley Cyrus](#)
(We Can't Stop, Live on SNL)

[Pavarotti & Friends](#)

[Lindsey Stirling & William Joseph](#)
(Halo Theme)

[2010: A Mandelbrot Odyssey](#)

[Andre Rieu with Carmen Monarcha](#)
(Meine Lippen, sie ku ssen so heiss)

[A Prairie Home Companion](#)
(Waitin' For You)

[Bianca Ryan](#)
(American Singer & Guitarist)

[How to Fix a cracked harp](#)

Executive Outlook
February 2014
Is It Groundhog Day?

*Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President*



5:59 ... 6:00. The clock radio on the nightstand begins to play the strains of "I got you Babe" by Sonny and Cher. The man in the bed slowly awakens as the local radio announcers proclaim, "OK, campers, rise and shine, and don't forget your booties, because it's cold out there!" This scene continues to repeat like a bad dream in the movie Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray. Many of you no doubt remember this film from just a few years ago.

What does Groundhog Day have to do with piano technicians? I'm glad you asked. There is the age-old question that we are asked by our customers, "How long have you been servicing pianos?" What they are really asking is, "How much experience do you have?" Some technicians will reply that they have any number of years of experience servicing pianos. The real question, though, is this: Do you have that many years of experience, or are you like Bill Murray in the movie, simply reliving the same experiences over and over for the last number of years?

In Groundhog Day, Murray's character continues on this seemingly never-ending pilgrimage until he unlocks the secret and is able to break the spell and move forward. We also have a key to unlocking the cycle of limited experience and knowledge and moving forward into the realm of providing the best service for our customers. That key comes in investing in our continued education. The new year has begun, and many of us have already broken all the resolutions we made in those weak moments when we planned to do things differently this year. That makes this the perfect time to look more seriously at investing in our selves and in expanding our knowledge bases.

There is no end to the things we can learn about our profession. We are all business people. Are you the best you can be at marketing? Have you really tamed the tiger of paperwork and feel you are its master? Is your calendar so booked up that you need to hire an assistant? We are all technicians. Have you mastered every nuance of action regulation? Are there any repairs that still intimidate you? Do you understand design and production theory?

Last year I installed my first soundboard. It was a rewarding experience, and I learned that I needed to keep learning even more than I thought. We can all learn new things. Plan now to attend every chapter meeting this year. Start saving to attend the Annual Institute and Convention in Atlanta this summer. Teach a technical or write an article on a topic that interests you. Researching to prepare for either endeavor will help you grow your knowledge base.

The clock is already ticking on this year. 5:59 ... 6:00. Will the next sound you hear be the same thing you've already heard, or will there be a new tune playing in your life.