

# THE SOONER TUNER

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 Newsletter

Piano Technicians Guild

March 2015



## Co-Presidents

David Bonham, RPT

Gary Bruce, RPT



Last week on Friday at about 10:00 a.m. I received a call for a piano tuning that was needed that afternoon anytime after 3:00 p.m. for a local country club. I had tuned the piano before and so was familiar with the piano and its environment. I arrived at 3:04. The piano had been placed on the stage and there was a lot of activity in preparation for what looked to be a big event that evening. There was a 3 man vocal group from Las Vegas that was performing with a 3 piece band - piano, bass and drums. As I approached the piano a man who I figured to be the singing group manager asked what I was doing and when I told him he said, "I thought it had already been tuned." I played a couple notes to verify that it had not been tuned and sadly I found it to be 40 cents flat at A4. He asked how long it would take, I said at least an hour. He asked if I could hurry. Sound check was scheduled for four o'clock.

As I began my work the person who had called to book the tuning expressed his appreciation that I could come and apologized for the late notice. The drummer and bass player arrived and began setting up, respectfully and fairly quietly. The sound man was very pleasant and understanding. But he needed to do his work as well and kept his monitor and mic checks to a minimum. I finished with my 40 cent pitch raise and final tuning at about 4:15. My reading of A4 revealed 439.8. I informed the bass player (who I figured was the only one who might notice).

I found the club employee and informed him of the condition of the piano and made a few recommendations for future reference. The piano player arrived and so I waited in the back of the room as they ran their mic checks and listened as they played through one piece. Sounded pretty good, all things considered. In a couple weeks I will get a check from the club as compensation. But the greater reward for me comes in knowing that I was able to do - in that amount of time, under that set of circumstances - something that only a handful of people can do, relatively speaking. Now pretty much everyone reading this essay could have done the same. But I was reminded that there are not very many of us "out there" who do this sort of thing. At the same time I am reminded of a verse of scripture that reads, "don't think more highly of yourself than you ought." So let's not get the big head, but at the same time we ought to think highly of ourselves and the skills we possess and remember that as we go about doing our work, we represent a very small, very specialized and very unique group of people who call themselves Piano Technicians.

I am very pleased and proud to part of this Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild and I hope my public representation will always honor our Code of Ethics on the back of our membership card. In case you haven't read it lately here is what it says:

1. I will act honorably and in a professional manner.
2. I will render the best possible service under the circumstances, always keeping the best interests of my client in mind.
3. I will uphold the principles of honesty and integrity for which the Piano Technicians Guild stands.
4. I will use the name and trademarks of the Piano Technicians Guild properly and will encourage others to do the same.
5. I will strive to upgrade my professional skills and I will encourage and help others to do the same.
6. I will promote, in any way that I can, good will toward my profession and toward the music industry.
7. I will engage only in business practices that are in accord with the antitrust guidelines as set forth by the Piano Technicians Guild.

Respectfully submitted, Gary

Next Meeting  
March 19th  
8:30am

[Oklahoma Christian University](#)  
[Garvey Fine Arts Center](#)

(Edmond, OK)

[Directions](#) // [Google Maps](#)

(contact Gary Bruce 405-413-8863 if lost)

After our business meeting  
we will once again delve into the self evaluation exercise.

This time focusing on the Action Regulation section.

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 PTG Minutes  
February 19, 2015  
Home of David & Barbara Bonham

\*Breakfast gathering.

\*Meeting called to order by President, David Bonham at 9:09. Gary Bruce opened with prayer.

\*Those in attendance were RPTs David Bonham, Keith McGavern, Keith Morgan, Nathan Rau, Jamie Marks & Gary Bruce, Associates Jordan Bruce, Joseph Woolston & Jonathan Edwards and Barbara Bonham (and Vivie).

\*The minutes from the January meeting were received as written.

\*Gary gave the Treasurers Report. The checking account balance is \$2089.16 as of the January 31, 2015 statement. Income and expenses as follows: Beginning Balance: Interest Earned \$2,089.07 \$.09 \$2,089.16 Ending Balance Reimbursement payment to David Bonham for travel and food expenses will be delayed until after 2015 Chapter Dues are received from the Home Office in order to maintain a \$2,000 balance in the checking account, thus avoiding a fee.

\*Keith McGavern mentioned that the website hosting renewal will be coming due in a few weeks.

\*There was a question about the hosting of an Associate's Seminar in October, but discussion was tabled until we heard more from Norman Cantrell concerning same.

\*The Executive Board met in January to review and plan.

\*Meeting adjourned at 9:50. Next Executive Board meeting will be at 8:30 a.m., February 24 and the next Chapter meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19.

\*For our technical presentation we introduced the Self Evaluation tool created by the Chicago Chapter, which mimics the written RPT exam. After taking the time to answer the 18 questions from the Tuning section we spent the rest of the time going over the answers and discussing, explaining and exploring the questions and answers. Gary will send the complete test to all members who have not already received it so that the next section, Action Regulation, can be completed prior to our next meeting, allowing more time to discuss that section at that time.

\*David then spent some time in his shop showing hammer filing techniques. Jamie had brought a grand action model that he built with his CNC machine which is capable of adjusting the location of virtually every part. This is most helpful in realizing the difference that making changes to the various locations of action parts and keys has in touch, regulation and performance.

\*Meeting ended at about 11:45 and a Dutch treat lunch followed at San Marcos.

The Ft. Worth Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild Presents

# LaRoy Edwards

In An All-Day Seminar

## Grand Regulation In The Home With Ten New DIY Tools



LaRoy says . . .

"I'm on a crusade to get the journal to feature ideas, tools, and techniques that we have all devised to help in our own work, especially the tools, jigs, or improvements that as individuals many have "come up with" because they are not available at the tool companies. My class will have at least 10 such tools that are easy to make by most technicians in the shop they have. I will include plans for the tools and give away (via a drawing) the tools that I will demonstrate."

LaRoy is a former member of The American Society of Piano Technicians, Charter member of PTG, Concert Technician for The Associated Colleges of Claremont, Calif. Joined Yamaha as National Piano Service Manager in 1962, a job he held for 24 years. Upon retiring, he became a consultant for Yamaha and has been employed as such ever since. (Total of 53 years.) With Henry Haino, the former dean of piano technology for the Yamaha Piano Training Academy in Japan, created "The Little Red Schoolhouse" and "The 37 Steps to Grand Piano Regulation", a technical seminar that he taught for 41 years with over 1600 graduates. Over the years, Yamaha of Japan has sent him to Scandinavia, Europe, Australia and New Zealand to teach this seminar. He has 3 daughters that are full time piano technicians.

WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 2015 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lunch and breaks included

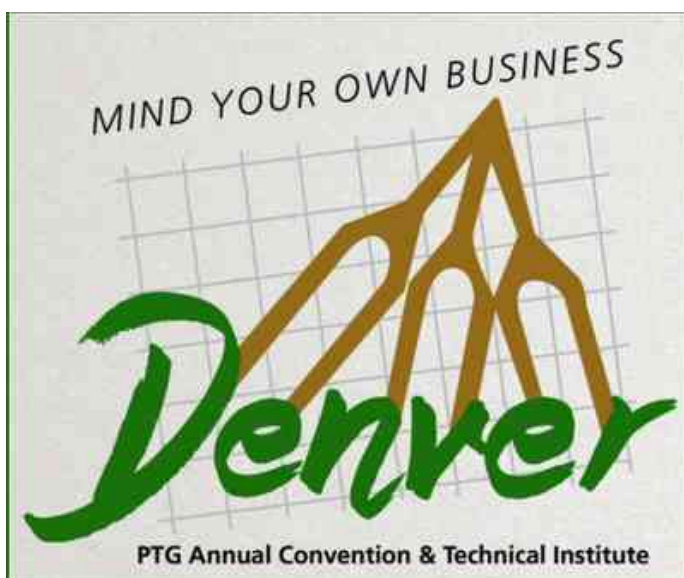
WHERE: Metroplex Piano Warehouse, 721 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25

HOSTED by the FORT WORTH CHAPTER

TO RSVP: Contact Ricki Klos at [mzricochet@yahoo.com](mailto:mzricochet@yahoo.com) or 512-773-7133

([mzricochet@yahoo.com](mailto:mzricochet@yahoo.com))



JULY 15TH-18TH  
Registration began February 1st

Central Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
June 2014 – May 2015

Co-Presidents

[David Bonham](#), RPT

[Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

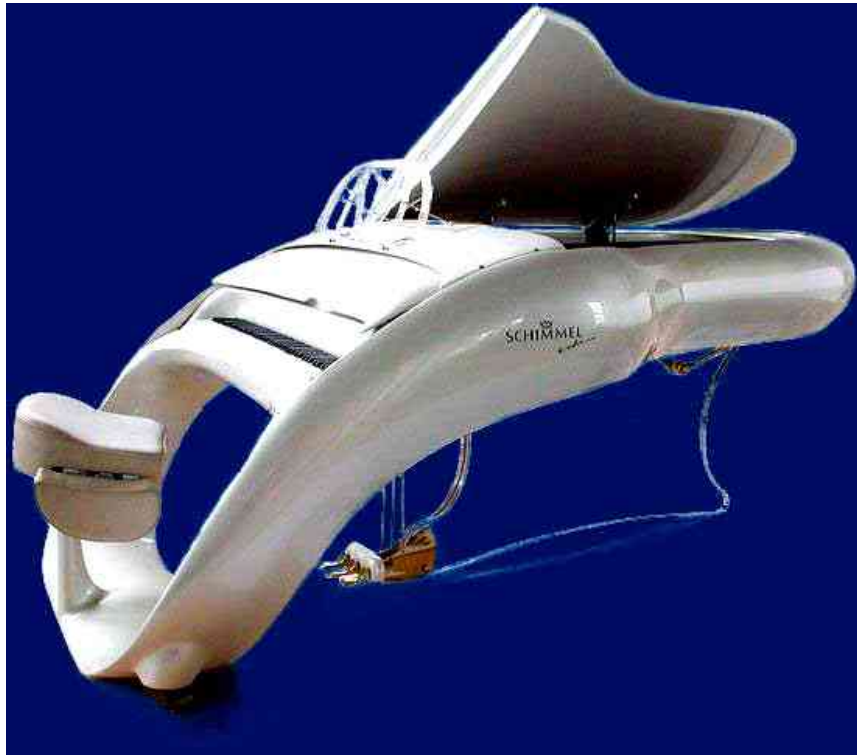
Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

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

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Schimmel Pegasus



Schimmel CC 213 G Transparent

[Blüthner Pianos](#)  
[Kasimoff Pianos Los Angeles](#)



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

## ~ High Lights ~

[Maddie Ziegler](#)

(Sia – Chandelier, Official Video)  
[Maddie Ziegler - Young and beautiful](#)

[My Life As A One Man Band](#)

(Tommy Emmanuel – TEDx)

[Send It On](#)

(Disney Friends for Change)  
(Jonas Brothers, Miley Cyrus, Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez)

[Nickel Creek](#)

(truly one of the greatest bluegrass trios of all time  
(presented by Tiny Desk Concert, NPR)

[How To Handle Stress](#)

(Sadhguru)

[Paroxysm](#)

(Antoine Dufour, Harp Guitar)

[Versoix, Switzerland](#)

[Rhythmic Worlds 2011 Montpellier](#)

(Group 5 Balls Final)

[The Berlin Concert](#)

[Sam Bailey / Nicole Scherzinger](#)

(And I'm Telling You)

[Andre Rieu](#)

(Ballade pour Adeline)

[Dubai Land](#)

[Yuja Wang](#)

(Liszt Sonata B minor)

[Louden Wainwright III](#)

(One-Man Guy)

[Yoga Time with a Chihuahua](#)

**Executive Outlook**  
March 2015  
**Comfortable Old Friends**  
*Norman Cantrell, RPT*  
*PTG President*



Recently I was on the way to a service call and looped by my shop on the way out of town. I noticed that the door to the side shed was standing slightly ajar, so I wheeled in to take a look. My lawnmower lived in that shed, and I was concerned that it had grown legs and taken off on its own. I pushed the door to the shed open and there sat the lawnmower. Relieved, I opened the door to the shop to retrieve a screwdriver to reattach the screws of the hasp that had been securing the door to the shed. It was when I got inside the shop that I realized that the lawnmower was still there, but several of my tools were missing. The folks that decided to help themselves to my stuff had entered my shop through a side window once they were inside the shed.

Having stuff stolen is never a good feeling. There is a feeling of personal violation when you are robbed. It is also interesting to see just what interested a thief and what got left behind. One item that disappeared was a small four-ounce ball peen hammer. It may not have been the absolute best design possible, but it was a comfortable old friend. I purchased this hammer over 30 years ago, and from a resale perspective, it would probably fetch a whopping seventy-five cents at a pawnshop.

The frustration in all of this is not the value of what was taken, but the hassle of shopping for replacement tools. What I find is that the type of tool I am replacing is no longer in production, or if it does exist it has been modified in some manner. It is "New and Improved!" Personally, I often prefer "Old and Yucky." I'm still shopping for the right replacement for my small hammer. Nothing I have found so far feels right.

There is another tool investment I have been making over the last several years. Fortunately, no thief can rob me of this set of special and unique tools. Those tools make up the knowledge I have gained over my years of being a piano technician. Each time I attend a class, a seminar or convention, I add another tool or set of tools in my intellectual toolbox.

It is interesting that some tools require maintenance to keep them at top performance. Chisels and planes require sharpening. Other tools require lubrication to keep their moving parts free and easy to use. Our mental acumen also requires maintenance from time to time. If you have ever read a book twice, it is astounding to note what you missed the first time. Likewise, if you have taken the same class at a convention more than one time, you will often reap additional benefits.

It is March, and you should already be making plans to sharpen your intellectual axe by attending the PTG convention in Denver this summer. Remember, no one can steal these tools, but if you don't invest in updates and maintenance, even your mind can get rusty, and your approach can become obsolete.

## Internet Cartoons

