

GOOD VIBRATIONS

FEBRUARY 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RUTH VAN DINE, RPT

Keeping the tools of our trade in good order is important to our work. Not only our actual tools in good repair, but also the knowledge which goes along with them to be able to use them efficiently. Our membership in the PTG gives us access to a large knowledge base, revisiting old ideas and the ability to reach out to fellow members around the world.

So it is the beginning of the new year and the check list is before me:

- replenish my tools & supplies
- pay my dues for this year
- attend our chapter meetings for fellowship and new ideas
- enjoy the company of my pets, friends and family.

Ruth

BUSINESS TG & TEHNICAL:

- Feb 17, 2011
- 7pm at **Piano Gallery of Rhode Island**
238 East Main Road, Middletown
- 5:30pm Dinner at **Slam Square Restaurant**, same address

FEBRUARY MEETING — ARTIST BENCH REPAIRS — PATRICIA SELEMON, RPT AND RYAN KAPPELMAN, MOHAWK REP

An artist bench is not like other benches.....they are heavy, costly, have lots of moving parts and are adjustable, have many things which need regular upkeep, maintenance or repair. In this meeting we are going to review the care required for these special benches including "Rebuilding of the Jansen Artist Bench". Please bring remembrances of your bench experiences to share.

As a special treat we will have *Ryan Kappelman*, our *Mohawk* area representative show us a "Leather" repair for the bench and bring us up to date with latest *Mohawk* products.

DIRECTIONS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH MEETING:

Meeting 7pm: Piano Gallery of Rhode Island 238 East Main Road, Middletown 401-849-5333

Dinner 5:30pm: Siam Square Restaurant 238 East Main Road, Middletown 401-851-7988

(2 doors to Left of Piano Gallery)

From Jamestown/Newport/Bridges: RI-138 E over Jamestown/Newport/Bridges

Bear LEFT at end of Newport Bridge toward RI-114 N.

Turn LEFT 138 E at Newport Grand traffic light.

Turn LEFT onto W Main Road RI-114/RI-138. Go .8 mile

Turn RIGHT onto RI-138 East Main Road. Go .4 mile

To 238 E Main Rd Middletown Corner of Valley Road and East Main Road. (Across from Wendy's).

Other stores in plaza are Subway, AT&T.

From Fall River: Rte 24 South. Go 9.8 miles

Merge onto RI-114 South. Go 6.3 miles

Turn LEFT onto RI-138 East Main Road. Go .4 mile

To 238 E Main Rd Middletown

Tid Bit —

*"Without the piano there would be no music ...
(except perhaps for some country and western.)"*

- LaRoy Edwards (Columbus PTG Chapter Newsletter)

TECH TIP: FELT TEMPERAMENT STRIP

By Ruth Van Dine, RPT

My favorite felt mute strip is from Pianotek Supply: Temperament strip #TS-1 1" wide by 50" long. I improve it by cutting down the middle making two strips of very high quality felt.



SCHAFF WEBSITE—TECHNICALS TO DOWNLOAD

by the Richmond Update newsletter of the Richmond Chapter, PTG Dec '10 issue

If you go to the Schaff website, you will have access with your customer number to about thirty technicals in PDF format which are very interesting. They detail the exact tool you can use for the exact job, and coincidentally, you find them on the company's catalogue. They encompass many of the tasks a technician or a rebuilder has to do everyday. You might find some help for this little pesky chore you never perform but have to do by tomorrow... As they are in PDF format, you can save these files to your computer and add them to your piano technician's library. <https://istore.schaffpiano.com/istore>

RECYCLING THE OLD UPRIGHT—BY RUTH VAN DINE, RPT

Recycling – we do it all of the time with piano parts. I had an upright piano in my shop which I had hoped to revive. Looking it over it became apparent that this piano was too far past practical refurbishing, having been in a school environment and abused. So the piano sat, being used for practice stringing, a few notes of regulation, and a nice flat surface to put things on. Soon parts of the piano left for better uses – a bunch of treble hammers were used for RPT testing, castors moved onto other pianos, and trapwork became supports on a cabinet. Still the piano lingered in limbo huddled in a corner of my shop.

Finally, came the decision to do something with the piano. Remembering an old article I had pulled out of a journal: *“Making an Action Model in One Day”* by John Dorr, March 2007. I located the article in my pile of things I really had set aside to review some day. Well, the day had come and I invited my husband to help recycle the piano. What fun we had, following the article we extracted the items needed for our new 25 note vertical action model. Then it was time to dispose of the waste. Out came the screws, tuning pins, plate, etc until it was just a bit of this and that. The cast iron plate was picked up by a friend who recycles metal. The remains of the wood were cut into the required size for pick up by our town waste management services. The rest, no longer in limbo, went into our home dumpster.

After all of that I have an upright action model which can be used for teaching and demonstrations. It fits onto a shelf instead of a whole piano huddled in the corner of the shop taking up space I don't have to spare. In the end I'm very glad technicians write for the PTG journal, sharing their wonderful ideas for us to remember and put to use.



NOVEMBER'S TECHNICAL—BY DAVID FLANDERS, RPT

We were very fortunate to have Eric Johnson (aka High End Piano Guy) address Our Chapter last November, including a very well put together PowerPoint presentation. What Eric introduced us to is the whole other world of European pianos that we rarely see or service. Such hallowed names like Bosendorfer, Steingraeber and Sohne, August Forster, and Bluthner among them. He showed us many manufacturing details that set them apart from other pianos, such as no-tension rim, where, rather than being bent under extreme tension, the wood is kerfed to allow it to be bent. Many other such details were pictured and explained.

Eric's main point is that we technicians should become more familiar with these instruments, as just more variety in what we may want to recommend to our more particular customers. None of these fine pianos is even moderately priced, so money is something that has to be taken into consideration. There is a dealer in Connecticut that deals in these instruments, which could prove to be a very interesting and fun field trip.

It was a pleasure to have our eyes opened to this completely other world within the piano industry.

GOOD VIBRATIONS

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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.”

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

February 17th — Artist Bench Repairs - Pat Selemon, RPT & Ryan Kappelman, Mohawk Rep @ Piano Gallery of Rhode Island , Middletown RI

March — A simple method for changing action ratio — David Stanwood, RPT



- **April** — TBA
- **May** — 2 weeks to replace Pinblock, resting & dampers- Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT
- **June** — WNG Action Parts @ Ruth Van Dine’s Home
- **March 3 – 6, 2011** — **WESTPAC** , SF Airport Marriott Hotel, Burlingame, CA
- **April 28 – May 1, 2011** — **MARC**, Hotel Bethlehem, Historic Bethlehem, PA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN’S GUILD, INC.

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Rhode Island Chapter