

GOOD VIBRATIONS

MARCH 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEETING	2
DIRECTIONS	
TID BIT	2
FEB TECH REVIEW	2
WORKBENCH	3
ASSOCIATES DISCOUNT	3
PTG CONV. DATES	3
FEB MINUTES	4
UPCOMING MEETINGS	5



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RUTH VAN DINE, RPT

Spring in Rhode Island, what a wild time for pianos! Yesterday the weather went from light rain overnight to the 50/60's in the morning, snow shower in the afternoon then just plain cold. I've had very stable pianos go wildly out of tune and lots of pianos just hang in there for the ride.

This sure is a time to test your tuning stability and educate your clients

about humidity. And yes, that new wood stove really is too close to the piano! The best days are going to a new client and finding the piano actually near pitch after 10 years without a tuning. Go figure.

Spring is welcome just the same.

Ruth

BUSINESS TG & TECHNICAL:

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

MARCH MEETING — A SIMPLE METHOD FOR CHANGING ACTION RATIO

— **DAVID STANWOOD, RPT**

A demonstration of a quick method for altering the balance rail punchings to change action ratio and quickly make a piano feel significantly heavier or lighter. The attendees will have the opportunity to participate in applying the technique and experience an action before and after this treatment on a Grand Piano.

Come early @ 4pm and work with David on this project.

DIRECTIONS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 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 —

"If a cluttered desk is the sign of a cluttered mind, what is the significance of a clean desk?"

- Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)

FEBRUARY'S TECHNICAL REVIEW —BY DAVID FLANDERS, RPT

For last month's meeting, held at Larry Brown's Piano Gallery in Middletown, we had the good fortune to have two technical's in one. The first was brought to us by Mohawk Finishing Products, and their area representative, Ryan Kappelman. Ryan brought with him three cases of the various finishing, touch-up, and restoration products that they make; as such, only a few could have possibly been introduced, let alone discussed. Ryan admitted that he'd only been in this position for a year, and his presentation was understandably less polished than it will be. As mentioned, he did introduce us to many of the products, and the specialty uses for each.

This evening, he was focusing on leather and vinyl repair. He showed us the palette of the various grades of leather, from crust to split-grain to top grain. He then set about making a repair on a vinyl bench top with a serious tear. He walked us through putting in

the backing; filling the space; and then, coloring the repair. At the end, while not invisible, the result was something that most clients would be quite happy with.

The second half of the evening's technical was presented by our own Pat Selemon, RPT. She had brought a couple of artist benches, including one with a break in the wooden frame, and some new replacement parts - bushings for the arm guides. Armed with a printout from the PTJ, walked us through the reconditioning of the mechanism, and replacement of the bushings. In a roundtable discussion, we all participated in recounting various other problems with the benches, and what might be a suitable repair. Also discussed was adequate lubrication of the mechanism - particularly in heavy institutional use - with either wheel bearing grease or ProLube paste.

It was a very full evening, and a good reminder of what we all have to gain from attending our meetings. Thanks to Ryan and Pat.

MY PIANO WORKBENCH

By Nicolas Guerlet, from *The Richmond update*, newsletter of the Richmond Virginia chapter of the piano technicians guild

For those of us who are not rebuilders and do not have a shop, where do you put that grand action you need to regulate, or that spinet action that needs new rubber grommets? This was the question I had since I joined the Guild. Well, not any more. I finally found out on Internet a wonderful bench on www.americanworkbench.com

I bought what is called a "common man", 30" x 60 ".1 3/4" thick. (Unfortunately, the room I wanted to put it inside my home could not contain the "Plantation" model, 30" x 72". Its legs are 3.5" x 3.5". I chose to have my bench 35" tall and it has adjustable leg levelers. All that for a whopping 210 Lbs and a 800 Lb Capacity. You could actually play bowling on the surface without indenting it.

I was a little worried to order a 210 pound-workbench through Internet, but John Zirpola, the manager of the company made it flawless. I called him on the phone even before ordering it, and he gave me wonderful advice, like having my bottom shelf recessed from 10" so I had room for my feet when sitting on a chair. (Yes, you can customize the workbench in multiple ways). Also, I must admit that he was the nicest person to talk with on the phone and I felt like a very important customer, which is not always the case when dealing with companies. He sent me a half dozen very detailed emails during the manufacturing process to give me updates on my workbench and on the delivery date.

I waited a little less than a month for my workbench. Then it arrived and it became my pride. The few people who had a chance to see it could not believe a workbench can be as beautiful as mine is. John engraved it with: "American workbench 2010", "Expert piano Service" and last but not least engraved my very complicated logo, a grand piano in the middle of a pianokeyboard encircling it. (All of that for free).

He even told me by email that he had liked the challenge of doing it. I also customized it with a Cabinet Maker's vise. (Of course, I could choose exactly where the vise would be placed). So, if you want the perfect workbench that your children will also be able to use, have a look on the site: www.americanworkbench.com.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS—DISCOUNT RPT EXAMS

For Associate members of Our Chapter: Until August 31st 2011, the Chapter will pay *one half* of the technical and/or tuning exam fees. Granted, this reduces the rate to what it had been for the last few years; but, it does amount to a savings of \$90 for each exam.

PLANNING AHEAD—PTG NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

For those who like to get a jump on things, here are the dates and locations for future PTG National Conventions (from the PTG website) All are probably "subject to change".

2011 July 13-17 Kansas City, MO

2013 July 10-14 Chicago, IL

2012 July 11-15 Seattle, WA

2014 July 16-20 Atlanta, GA

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 17, 2011

Location: Piano Gallery of Rhode Island, 238 East Main Rd. Middletown, RI

Present: David Flanders, RPT, Ruth Van Dine, RPT, Barbara Renner, RPT, Pat Se-
lemon, RPT, Mike Shaw, Larry Brown, Joel Levine, & David Dragone.

Guests: Jack Renner & Ryan Kappelman

Call to Order: 7:12 PM

Approval of Minutes: So approved for September, October, and November

Treasurer's Report: None

Special Reports/Standing Committees:

Nomination Committee: Any member interested in submitting their name for
chapter office, contact Barbara Renner, chairman

Unfinished Business:

Library book list is on-going and those wishing to put in request can contact
Joel Levine, Librarian.

New Business:

Ruth mentioned that new information on touch rail and assuring a proper
installation is available.

Reviewed nomination request which was made to the chapter in January.

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dragone

Secretary



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:

March 17th — A simple method for changing action ratio — David Stanwood, RPT
@ Piano Gallery of Rhode Island , Middletown RI (optional—4pm prep w/ David)

• **April** — 45 Ways to Make Your Business More Successful — Ruth Van Dine, RPT



- **May** — Pinblock, restring, dampers, action fore-fitting By Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT
- **June** — WNG Action Parts @ Ruth Van Dine’s Home
- **April 28 – May 1, 2011** — **MARC**, Hotel Bethlehem, Historic Bethlehem, PA
- **July 13–17** — 54th PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Kansas City, MO

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

CHAPTER INFORMATION:

CHAPTER OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Vice President.....David Flanders, RPT
Immediate Past President...Wade Johnson, RPT
Treasurer.....Michael Shaw
Secretary.....David Dragone
By-Laws: Wade Johnson, RPT & David Flanders, RPT
Examining & Testing Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Patricia Selemon, RPT
Librarian: Joel Levine
Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Nominating: Barbara Renner, RPT, Joe Loiselle, RPT, & Paul Dumont, RPT
Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board
Technical: Joel Levine, Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT, Larry Brown, & John Harris

Newsletter: Free to R.I. Chapter members, certain National PTG officers, and reciprocally to other newsletter editors.

Non-members may subscribe for \$8.00 per year.

Advertising: Free to members, non-members \$20; three months listing in this newsletter and on our website.



Rhode Island Chapter