

GOOD Vibrations

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

NOVEMBER 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

Thanksgiving is fast approaching.

Let us give thanks for our youthful enthusiasm which is always replenished when we learn a new trick of the trade.

We had an anonymous donation given to our chapter for a chapter website. This website is now available on line at <http://www.RI-PTG.org> Please take a moment and review it for discussion at the November meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Pat

November Technical Review

Comprehensive Action Rebuilding

By Jude Reveley, RPT
Boston Chapter

Jude Reveley has amalgamated many current techniques & procedures to present this step-by-step overview of all aspects of grand action rebuilding. Topics to be covered will include disassembly & recording of original data, diagnosis & solutions, initial assembly of parts, pre-regulation and as time permits, final regulation.

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Technical Jude Reveley, RPT

November 17, 2005
7:00 pm

Meeting at
Avery Piano Co.
256 Weybosset St.
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner
5:15 Trinity Brew House before
the meeting. Trinity Brew House
is at 186 Fountain Street on the
corner of Empire Street.

Librarian's Report

By Ruth Van Dine

Your library is up and loaning, and ready to help you. Below are the rules of loaning followed by what materials we have in the library. We accept any and all donations, so if you would like to share the wealth with other technicians, please bring in your books, videos, and DVDs to our next meeting.

RULES OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY

1. Contact the librarian to borrow any materials.
2. Materials will be loaned for a three-month period, to chapter members only.
3. Loans can be extended for an additional three months, for a total of six months at a time, as long as no one else is waiting for the materials.
4. A waiting list" will be kept by the librarian for materials already on loan.
5. The PTG member that wishes to check out any materials bears the cost of shipment.
6. The PTG member also bears the cost of any damaged or destroyed materials.
7. Materials can be checked out at any PTG meeting; otherwise the items will be mailed, unless other arrangements are made.

Books

But you can feel it by Emil Fries
Country Piano Tuner by Howard Chase
Educated Piano by Edward McMorrow
My life with the Great Pianists by Franz Mohr
Piano on the Left Bank by Thad Carhart
So you want a piano? By Paul Lynn, RPT
Steinway Regulation by F.R. Dietz
Temperament by Stuart Isacoff
The Equal-Beating Temperaments by Owen Jorgensen

Tid Bits.....

"Laws to suppress tend to strengthen what they would prohibit. This is the fine point on which all legal professions of history have based their job security."
— Frank Herbert
(1920-1986) Source: Dune, 1965

Editor

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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.

"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."

CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Pat Selemon, RPT
Vice President.....Wade Johnson, RPT
Treasurer.....Arthur Sacco
Secretary.....David Flanders, RPT
Corresponding Secretary.....Ruth Van Dine

Examining Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT, Wade Johnson, RPT

Interview Committee: Pat Selemon, RPT (chair) and Wade Johnson, RPT

Librarian: Ruth Van Dine

Newsletter: Mike DiDonato and Ruth Van Dine

Nominating Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair) and Phinehas Valenti, RPT

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

Refreshment Designator: Ruth Van Dine

Clicks and Clatters

M.S. Didonato, RPT

Well Well

Well we certainly had a dramatic climate situation this year. The extreme humidity had a very adverse affect on many of my customer's instruments as I'm sure did yours. In the words of my friend and mentor and fellow member of the Rhode Island chapter Kirk Russell, "I hate to lower the pitch of a piano". I brought this at up our chapter meeting in September and received some good insight from fellow members (BTW this is why you should make it a point to be at the meetings!).

The point of this piece is to discuss the Damp Chase System and stability. I found that the pianos that had the system installed were going sharp at the section where the water reservoir was installed underneath. The water was still evaporating even though the bar was off. I emptied the reservoir and the problem went away. One of our members stated she tries to steer her customers away from the system. She said to heal the room with a room humidifier and dehumidifier. This made complete sense to me. What I've found to be better is to use both in concert. But you must empty the Damp Chaser Well in the summer.

Leather Bushings

....in high humidity they squeak!! Teflon powder helps to make the squeak go away.

.....and a tip from one of our own

Winter dehumidity in customer's houses in Rhode Island usually bottoms out in early January (another good reason to be at the meetings!!). *Thanks to David Flanders, RPT*

New PTG National Website Feature

By Ron Berry, RPT

I have implemented a new feature for the PTG web site. I have added a list of specialized services that you can chose to have listed by your name in all the online directory listings. If you responded to the survey that came with the dues billing last year with this list of services we should already have the information showing.

This list of services can be changed by you. You login to the members area and go to Administration>Services List. This will give you a list with check boxes by each. Any information that is currently on record will show the box already checked. You can change this information at will. There are also some check boxes about where you work that will help us with demographics but will not show up on the web listings. After you have the proper items checked click "Update my Record" to record those changes. You will then be given a link to your record.

If you have forgotten your login information just click "Enter" under the login boxes in the upper right corner with the information boxes blank and you will get a page where you can enter your email and if we have you email address on file you will get the login information emailed to you.

This is a feature that allows you to personalize your listing. I plan to add a search feature that will search by these services. For example people could find members who do piano moving or rebuilders in their area.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G.

Location: Avery Piano Co., 256 Weybosset St., Providence, R.I.

Present: Wade Johnson, RPT; Kirk Russell, RPT; Michael DiDonato, RPT; David Flanders, RPT; Barbara Renner, RPT; Ruth Van Dine; guests Jack Renner, Gary Van Dine.

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Opening Remarks: Wade Johnson, Vice President

Pat Selemon and the evening's speaker were stuck in traffic and were unable to attend.

Minutes of the June Meeting and the Treasurer's Report were omitted from the September newsletter. Editor Michael DiDonato said that they would be put into the October edition.

Testing and Examination Committee: David reported on the status of the upcoming Associates' Day.

Technicals Committee Report: David reported that he will call Chris Robinson to see about making arrangements to visit Acousti— craft next spring.

Old Business: Wade Johnson brought up the subject of renominating the Brooks' for next year's Golden Hammer Award. The Chapter voted to resubmit their names.

New Business: Ruth Van Dine reported that she has been working with the Boston Chapter to establish and update a R.I. Chapter link on their Web site. David reported on the Connecticut Chapter's upcoming tour of the Steinway & Sons factory. Arthur opened a discussion of honoraria to our upcoming technical presenters.

Adjournment: 7:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Flanders, RPT
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2005 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G.

Location: Avery Piano Co., 256 Weybosset St., Providence

Present: Phinehas Valenti, RPT; Wade Johnson, RPT; Patricia Selemon, RPT; Kirk Russell, RPT; David Flanders, RPT; Arthur Sacco; Ruth Van Dine, Joyce Gindra; John Harris; Guests: Gary Van Dine, Stephanie Miele, Ron Iannazzi; Speaker: Jack Stebbins, RPT.

Call to Order: 7:08 P.M.

Opening Remarks: Patricia Selemon, President

Quorum verified

Minutes from September Meeting had not been sent to all members. It was passed that they would be re-sent in the November newsletter, to be voted on at the November Meeting. The minutes from the June Meeting were finally approved and accepted as written.

Testing and Examination Committee Report presented by David Flanders, confirming our "Associates Day" for Nov. 12th.

Newsletter Committee Report presented by Ruth Van Dine, announcing that she will be doing the compilation for the newsletter; and, that all submissions should be sent to her, such as Minutes and Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: Phinehas moved that the idea of a one-day Seminar for 2006 be taken off the table. Seconded and passed.

New Business: Ruth volunteered to contact Yamaha for video and print copies of "37 Steps of Regulation" for our forthcoming Chapter Library. Jack Stebbins gave a review of the book "Temperament" by Stuart Ishakoff for consideration as a Library purchase.

Discussion followed.

Adjournment: 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Flanders, RPT
Secretary

REPORT RE COUNCIL AND OTHER HAPPENINGS AT THE PTG ANNUAL CONVENTION

by Wade Johnson, RPT Delegate

The item that received by far the most attention at this year's meeting of Council was Bylaws Proposal #5, from the PTG Board, which would have removed the chapters from any role in the membership application procedure, turning it over to the Home Office. It generated fireworks from some chapters which began before the meeting -- in early June each of you with e-mail received a 4-page memo about it from the president of the Pittsburgh Chapter — and continued in the Council's sessions on June 13 and 14.

Promptly after receiving that memo, I as a member of the PTG Bylaws Committee fired off a memo to said Committee. I told them that as a Committee member I had grudgingly gone along with Proposal 5; that our Chapter didn't like it; that I saw it as "a further emasculation of the process by which people become competent, responsible piano technicians;" and that the thing to do was to defeat Proposal 5 and come up with something better for next year.

Proposal 5 wasn't to come up on the agenda until the second day of Council, June 14. On Monday evening the 13th, Bylaws Chair Norm Cantrell asked me to meet with him and Steve Lehr, the only other Committee member present in K.C., to see if we could come up with a substitute proposal that would give the chapters at least some involvement in the application process. The next morning in Council, we did offer a substitute, but it wasn't enough to satisfy some of the chapters angry about Proposal 5. So both the substitute proposal and proposal 5 failed to receive the necessary 2/3 majority vote for a Bylaws amendment...The status quo prevails for now, and the Bylaws Committee has its work cut out for it to come up with a new proposal.

Because there is a problem: Applicants for membership are not being treated consistently across the country, which lays the Guild, its chapters, and its officers open to possible lawsuits and anti-trust prosecution. I think Norm, who has studied this, is going to put an article in the *Journal* explaining how the anti-trust laws affect what chapters can and can't do with applicants, and why it will need to be uniform country-wide.

As for other Council business, Bylaws Proposals 1 through 4 were adopted as submitted; Proposal 6 passed with a minor amendment; and #7 was defeated. All 3 nominees for the top Guild offices were elected by unanimous ballot: Kent Swafford, President; Dale Probst, Vice-President; and Allan Gilreath, formerly SERVP, as Secretary-Treasurer. In the Northeast Regional caucus, Paul Kupelian was elected to a third year as our RVP. The Guild's 2006 budget and the \$5 increase in national dues were approved. Jack Stebbins was re-elected chair of the PTG Nominating Committee; Webb Phillips chairs the Ethics Committee; and Ed Hilbert of Vermont chairs Members' Rights. Board-appointed committees announced later in the week include a remarkable 3 Northeast members on the Bylaws Committee: Ruth Phillips; Brian Bailey of Pittsburgh; and yours truly...It's again chaired by Norm Cantrell of Oklahoma and also includes Steve Lehr of Nebraska and Joe Lieberman of California.

Tech Tip: Guild Rail Bushings

By Cate Gallivan, RPT

Boston PTG Chapter

(Reprint from The Buckeye Backcheck - April 2004)

I carry an upright damper wire (without the damper head in it) and heat it up whenever I need to take care of a tight guide rail bushing in a grand. The upright damper wire is bigger than a grand damper wire, and it does a nice job. Plus, it's smaller than an umbrella!

Rhode Island Chapter
Michael DiDonato, RPT
60 Irving Street
Bellingham, MA 02019



November Meeting Technical: Jude Reveley, RPT

November 17, 2005 at 7:00 pm

There will be no meetings in December or January '06



Rhode Island Chapter