

GOOD Vibrations

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

Eleven members came to the October meeting at Larry Brown's showroom in Middletown, and everyone seemed to really enjoy his demonstration of servicing a grand piano with the latest (Mark IV) Yamaha Disklavier...It's a lot more user-friendly than earlier models.

The Chapter Executive Board met October 28 and mapped-out programs for future meetings. Already scheduled, of course, was this month's meeting at Ruth's, and we don't have regular Chapter meetings in December or January. For February, we're slated to meet and tour at the new facility of the Music School of the RI Philharmonic in East Providence. For March, Pat Selemo has volunteered to show us her approach to tuning...location to be announced. Programs for April through June are also being lined up.

The scary world financial situation seems to have slowed the flow of information about the prospects for holding a NEECSO conference in Rhode Island in 2010, but perhaps we'll know more by the time we meet Nov. 20. Hope to see you then.

Wade

NOVEMBER MEETING

"Design Driven Restoration"™ - Jude Reveley,
RPT

Jude Reveley is the proprietor of Absolute Piano Restoration, LLC, which is a full service rebuilding facility in Lowell, Massachusetts. In addition to supplying custom made Sitka spruce soundboard panels and belly supplies to the trade, Absolute Piano specializes in a design driven approach to restoration. Jude will discuss the analysis and techniques involved in this approach, including soundboard design, scaling and action geometry.

NOVEMBER 2008

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Business Mtg

&

Technical

November 20, 2008

7:00 pm

Meeting at
Ruth Van Dine's Home
62 Stokes Street
Warwick, RI
Phone: 401-921-2456

Remember to join us for dinner
5:30 @
Chelos Bar & Grill, 2225 Post Rd,
Warwick RI 401-737-7299

Directions for November 20th meeting:

Meeting 7pm: Directions to Ruth's piano shop & home: 62 Stokes Street, Warwick, RI 02889

Phone: (401) 921-2456

Rte-95. Exit-13 for TF Green Airport, Warwick RI. 2nd Exit (just before airport) onto Rte 1 - Post Road.

Turn Left under overpass, go .7 mile.

Turn Right at Mobil station onto Airport Road, go 1.5 mile. (This road goes thru the north end of airport.)

At big intersection, continue straight onto West Shore Road, Rte 117 (not 117A). Dave's Supermarket was on your right, Walgreen's was across the intersection on the left.

Go 1.9 miles, (2 flashing lights & 1 traffic light) thru Conimicut village.

Turn Left on the far side of the Valero gas station onto Stokes St.

#62 is a 2-story Tan house with green door and shutters on Right a few houses down. It is across the street from a single story brick building (the Avalon Nursing Home).

Google Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/es4xs>

Dinner 5pm: Chelos Hometown Bar & Grill 2225 Post Road Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: (401) 737-7299

Rte-95. Exit-13 for TF Green Airport, Warwick RI. 2nd Exit (just before airport) onto Rte 1/Post Road.

Turn Right onto Rte 1/Post Road & go to next light 0.1 mi Turn Right into Chelos Restaurant.

Tid Bits.....

“Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love.”

- David McCullough (1933 -)

Newsletter:

Ruth Van Dine, RPT

62 Stokes St., Warwick, RI 02889

Email – ruth@vandinedesign.com

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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice President.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Immediate Past President.....Pat Selemon, RPT

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Secretary.....David Flanders, RPT

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Librarian: Joel Levine

Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Nominating Committee, Patricia Selemon, RPT (Chair) & David Flanders, RPT

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

“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.”

www.RI-PTG.org

Message from Ronald Berry, Webmaster for the Piano Technicians Guild

webmaster@ptg.org

Dear members,

I have added a new choice to the list of services that can appear with your member record online. I added "Humidity Control System Installation". I don't know how I missed having this for all these years.

If you install Humidity Control Systems and want to have that listed with your member record, you need to update your own record. There are many other special services that you can choose from as well. There is also a way customers can search for people who offer those services.

You need to log in to the members area to update your record. Follow the directions below to choose which services you offer.

- Locate your member number and your password. It should be on your membership renewal form. If not you can go to ptg.org and click "Forgot Login?" at the top right. If we have your email on file it will email your login information. Otherwise, call the PTG office at (913) 432-9975. Once you have it, go to www.ptg.org and use both to access the Member Area
 - Click on the "Administration" link
 - Click on "List of Services"
 - Use the electronic form there to update the list of services you provide. Click on the "Update My Record" button.

Tech Tip - Adapt music books to be able to lay flat on your piano

By Ruth Van Dine, RPT

I recently went to a music store and purchased two new music books. They are wonderful books but like so many refuse to lay flat on the music desk. Here is my solution and affordable to boot!

I took the items to Staples office supply store and had the copy center folks cut off the binding (cost approx. \$2.00) and install a coil binding (cost approx. \$2.50). The whole process took just 15 minutes. Have them cut and bind as close to the edge of the paper as possible so you won't lose any of your music. Now the book stays comfortably open.



The “You’ll Nev-R-Lift That Darn Grand Action Again” Caddy was shown to us at our last meeting by Larry Brown. This can be purchased from Edwards String Covers (1-800-924-2114) www.EdwardsStringCover.com

Tech Tip - Stuck on You! An Introduction to Epoxy, Voicing, and more....

By Paul Williams, RPT from *The Action* newsletter of Nebraska, Chapter of the PTG - March, 2008

1. Forward Duplex Area.

This area of the piano where the string goes underneath the capo develops grooves over time which can lead to buzzing or sizzling. There are a number of ways to bring these unwanted sounds to a minimum, or eliminate (if you’re lucky).

a. Drop the tension of six strings at a time and insert emery cloth sandpaper, grit side up between the strings and capo. Pull back and forth several times. Follow this with a small bit of lubricant like McLube liquid 1708L (dark gray colored) along the string to capo points on the bottom of the capo. Align strings and re-tune up to pitch.

b. Apply a small drop of clear epoxy to the strings between the capo and counter bearing bar nearer the tuning pins. The mass introduced will quiet noises as well, but won’t add any power or sustain to the note. Sometimes the entire capo section may need the treatment, but usually just a few annoying notes will help the whole section out tremendously.

c. If epoxy seems too permanent, you can squeeze a piece of bass damper (bi-chord) between the strings and the capo or weave a small thread or yarn around the strings.

2. Bridges, bridge pins, hitches, duplex bars, etc.

a. Termination points on the speaking length are often causes of not only potential buzzing, but also false beats and loss of tone and sustain. Gently tap the strings at the pin points with a hammer shank or brass jig (easily made with a 1/8” brass bar) and a small hammer. I use a small technician’s hammer with or without the combination handle since it’s important to only “tap” the strings once or twice for the string to seat properly.

b. False beats can originate from a small bend in the wire in the speaking length, a string that was somehow twisted during installation and loose bridge pins, to name the most common. Carefully study the string for bends. The only way to fix this is to restring the offending culprit. This will also take care of any twists as well.

c. To see if you have loose bridge pins, mute off two of three strings and find the offending string. Take a large blunt screwdriver, press firmly down on the bridge pin, and play the note. If there is a big improvement and the sustain and tone also improve, then you have a loose bridge pin. Here are a couple of potential solutions:

1. Tap the bridge pin with a punch. This may not do much or the problem will reoccur. Swings from our Nebraska humidity will be why it comes back, but it’s worth a try.
2. The best and more permanent way of fixing this is to lower the tension of the string and get the string away from the pin area. Pull the pin out carefully and put 1-2 very small drops of CA glue on the hole or quick setting epoxy (There’s that word again!) You can get epoxy to run better by heating it with a hair dryer. It will be almost water-like. Replace the pin and strings and re-tune. If you notice the notching is a bit off, you could put on a larger pin as well. Look at the old pin to see if it has corroded, bent, or badly grooved before reinstalling.

3. String leveling and seating.

a. After any bridge and capo repairs, the strings need to be properly seated and leveled. In the speaking length, use a string hook and gently pull up on the strings starting about 3-4 inches from the capo pulling back toward the capo at the same time as lifting. Follow this up by tapping the strings down at the bridge termination points, both front and back bridge pin areas. Feel with your fingertip if the three strings are at an equal height.

b. You can also use the brass string seating tool to gently massage the string pushing down and toward the bridge pin to help assure a good termination point.

After all this and the tone hasn’t improved much, then it’s off to hammer-hammer land.

Piano Tools for Sale

A former Associate member of our chapter, and a colleague of his, are scaling back and leaving the trade, respectively. Now, there are many tools and supplies (most like new) to be had. If you'd like to see a list of what's for sale, contact Jack Higby at either 295-1907, or jch@itiaccess.com, and he can e-mail you the attached file.

PIANOS FOR SALE

Steinway Model M 5'7" grand piano, Manufactured in 1926
Mahogany case refinished in satin lacquer approximately 15 years ago.
Price: \$27,000 Call 401 787-5210 for more information



Mason & Hamlin Model A 5'8" grand piano, made in Boston 1921..
Mahogany case, refinished early '90s...New Renner blue hammers
installed late '90s...Regularly tuned and maintained by Wade Johnson
RPT in whose opinion it's a desirable instrument in very good
condition...Asking \$13,000... May be seen by appointment on
Providence's East Side.



Contact George Leonard 401-272-8526

Knabe studio upright: Serial number: 194126 (1980).

Height of 45 inches, Ebony w/bench. Original owner.

Asking price \$2,500 or best offer. Contact Francis Scalise at
scalisef@cox.net or Cell 401-447-4765.



Fischer upright piano circa 1920 located in Little Compton, RI.

Lovely cherry finish. 54 inches high; 58 inches long with matching bench.

In excellent condition; I gave piano lessons on it for many years.

Asking price \$500. Contact: Claire Johnson email - sckwjohn@cox.net



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2008 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G.

Location: The Piano Gallery, Middletown

Present: Barbara Rener, RPT; Ruth VanDine, RPT; Wade Johnson, RPT; Patricia Selemon, RPT; Tom Roy, RPT; David Flanders, RPT; Dave Dragone, Larry Brown, Joel Levine, Arthur Sacco, Michael Shaw.

Call to Order: 7:05 P.M.

Quorum: Present

Minutes of the Sept. 18th Meeting: Approved and accepted


Old Business: David Flanders reported on the status of NEECSO 2010 and his waiting for a proposal from the Marriott Providence.

New Business: It was established that there would be an Executive Board Meeting, to be held on October 18th.

Adjournment: 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Flanders, RPT, Secretary

Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org
Ruth Van Dine, RPT
62 Stokes Street
Warwick, RI 02889



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Nov 20th - “Design Driven Restoration”™ - Jude Reveley, RPT
@ Ruth’s home in Warwick, RI

No Meetings or Newsletters: December or January



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org

February 19, 2009--February 22, 2009
2009 CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE
Marriott Burbank Airport & Convention Ctr Burbank, CA

March 19, 2009--March 22, 2009
CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Wichita, KS

April 23, 2009--April 26, 2009
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONVENTION, Harrisburg, PA