

# GOOD Vibrations

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

Hats off once again to Barbara and Jack Renner for so graciously hosting another annual summer picnic for our Chapter at their beautiful shorefront home in Portsmouth on July 19. A nine-member contingent (including wives and kids) from Uxbridge swelled the attendance to 17, a definite success. Despite sultry weather a great time was had by all.

Based on a very positive meeting of CT and RI Chapter officers in Mystic, CT on August 5, it now looks highly probable that the two chapters will jointly sponsor NEECSO in Downtown Providence in late April, 2010...See more about it in this newsletter from David Flanders, who at my request has indicated willingness to be Seminar Chair for that event.

Hope to see you at our first Chapter meeting of the new season, September 18 at my home in Gloucester.

Wade

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuning the Piano - David Flanders, RPT

For our technical this month, I will be demonstrating how I go about what we all do each day: tuning a piano. I have avoided using the word "teach," as I am continually humbled by tuning, and certainly do not feel more qualified than many others to put myself in that position.

So, I'm going to start from the temperament, move through the tenor, bass, and treble sections, as much as time allows. I invite all the questions you want to ask. We can discuss intervals, beat rates, hammer technique; it's all on the table. My hope is that, each year, one of our RPTs will do the same, and that there will be some little aspect of each demonstration that turns on some lightbulb over our heads. I have probably changed the way I tune 8 or 10 times, having heard something new, tried it out in my routine, and finally incorporated it.

SEPTEMBER 2008

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## Business Mtg

&

## Technical

September 18, 2008

7:00 pm

Meeting at

Wade Johnson's Home  
269 Snake Hill Road  
Gloucester, RI

Phone: 401-934-3049  
PARK IN DRIVEWAY!!!!

Remember to join us for  
dinner 5:30 pm

Gentleman Farmer Rest.  
50 Danielson Pike (Rte 6)  
No. Scituate, RI 401-647-7774

***Directions for September 18th meeting:***

**Meeting 7pm: Directions to Wade Johnson's, 269 Snake Hill Road, Glocester, RI** phone 401-934-3049

From Rte 295, take exit for "Route 44 West - Greenville". When you get onto 44 West, proceed past Apple Valley Mall, past the traffic light at Route 5, and to the fourth traffic light after that, where you should be in the **left lane** and turn left onto Route 116 (Smith Ave.). There's an Episcopal Church on the far left corner where you turn. Your total distance on Route 44 will have been about 2 1/4 miles. Proceed 1.3 mile to **stop sign**. At that point, Rte.116 goes to the left but **you continue straight**, past Knight's Apple Farm, on Snake Hill Road, for 1.3 miles, to two light-blue vinyl-sided houses on the right, one behind the other, separated by a circular driveway. Wade's is the rear house. Just before the driveway you will have passed a black mailbox with "269" on it. **Parking:** For safety's sake, do not park on the pavement of Snake Hill Road. There's enough room around the driveways for the cars.

**Dinner 5:30 pm: Directions to the Gentleman Farmer Restaurant, 50 Danielson Pike (Rte. 6), North Scituate** phone 401-647-7774

Follow the directions to Wade's as far as the stop sign on Rte. 116. There, instead of going straight on Snake Hill Road, **turn left** onto 116 and take it to the **second traffic light** (2.4 miles) where you should **turn left** onto Rte. 6. The restaurant and its parking lot are 4/10 mile up on the right.

**Tid Bits.....**

"Hide not your talents, they for use were made.  
What's a sun-dial in the shade?"  
- Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

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**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.  
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**CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

**Examining & Testing Committee:** David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Kirk Russell, RPT

**Librarian:** Joel Levine

**Newsletter:** Ruth Van Dine, RPT

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

**Publicity and Public Relations:** Executive Board

**www.RI-PTG.org**

## PTG Council Report - June Anaheim, CA

### Proposal 1: Referencing Offices and Credentials in Advertising

This passed with no discussion and will allow PTG officers to identify themselves as such when performing the official duties.

### Proposal 2: Spousal Dues Reduction

This was defeated when it became apparent that if this were passed allowing members to “option out” that PTG “benefits” would then become “products” in the eyes of the IRS and the organization would then possibly lose its “not for profit” status.

### Proposal 3: Revision of PTG Exam Bylaw and Regulations

This passed after much discussion. The primary reason for these changes moved many items out of the bylaws and into the regulation codes of PTG making the exams more manageable. The price increase was the topic of most debate. After several attempts to change the amount it finally passed as proposed. This was after the council was informed that the increase of income would be used for three main purposes:

1. Reimbursements for exam centers that run short of money needed to give exams.
2. Provide materials and resources for additional exam centers making exams more assessable.
3. Training examiners in areas where requests for exams have been requested and could not be met in the past. It was reported that in many chapters associate members strongly support the exam increase as they see it as a necessary move to make the exam process more accessible. **The new exam fees will not go into effect until home office and the exam committee can put all the provisions in place. This is estimated as January 1st, 2009 at the earliest.**

### Proposal 4: Regional Vice President Elections Procedures

This would have allowed an electronic ballot to elect these officers. This was defeated with very little debate as it was felt that in person election should be retained.

### Proposal 5: Allied Piano Trades Member, Franchised

This was not passed but sent back to the board as they had concerns with liability issues. They did express a desire to continue to work on this particular issue and hoped to find suitable means of recognizing the valuable contributions and hard-won expertise of these individuals.

### Proposal 6: Disciplinary Code Changes

This was defeated as it had too many legal issues

### Proposal 7: Numbers of members needed for a Quorum to do Council Business.

This was a late submission presented by the board. Each year the number of delegates attending council have been diminishing getting close to dropping below 50% not required to do business. The number was changed to 40%.

### **\*\*Report of New Client Contacts Requested\*\***

PTG purchased advertising with internet search engines. It comes up when anyone is searching for a piano technician. This is a direct link to PTG.org listings. Each time it is clicked on for that link, there is a fee to the home office – **SO PLEASE DON'T CLICK ON THAT LINK JUST TO TRY IT OUT!** The home office would like to hear from members who are contacted by potential customers through these electronic means. Please contact Shawn Bruce at PTG home office and report.

## NEEC SO 2010 UPDATE

By David Flanders, RPT

As of our last Chapter Meeting, we were beginning to explore the idea of Our Chapter's hosting the 2010 NEECSO Annual Seminar. What followed from that initial idea was that our Executive Board felt the need for some "back-up" sponsorship, so that our limited treasury would not be fully exposed. The Connecticut Chapter has been very enthusiastic about co-sponsoring 2010, especially if it is being held in Providence.

We had our first joint meeting last month, with 3 of our Executive Board members and 4 CT Chapter members. Division of labor between all of us went quite smoothly, and we all had our assignments to be completed prior to our next, Sept. 9, meeting. I will be reporting on both of those meetings at the Sept. Chapter Meeting, at which time, we will be taking a Chapter vote of whether to proceed with hosting the 2010 Seminar or not.

## Tech Tip

By Mark Dierauf of Concord NH

His method of retro-fitting the Steinway pitman:

"I'm using 3/8" dowel with a 5/8" punching. Also, rather than drilling a shallow hole in the tray and trap lever, I use a roughly 1" square of 1/4" cowhide, with a 5/8" hole drilled through it, on both the tray and lever. I can position these and the new pitman, lined up through the hole through the keybed, until I get the straightest run. Then I mark their positions, remove the pitman and glue the leather blocks in place. An appropriate wedge under the tray acts as a clamp, and I use a spring clamp on the trap lever. Gluing the rough side of the lever with Titebond, it dries adequately in a minute or so, and if I should screw something up I figure it will be a lot easier to remove the leather blocks than to un-drill holes in the parts. If you're dealing with an older Steinway with the 5/8" original pitman, it isn't even necessary to drill out the hole through the keybed."

## PIANOS FOR SALE

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:sckwjohn@cox.net)

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



## Upcoming Meeting Dates:

**Sept 18th – Tuning the Piano - David Flanders, RPT @ Wade Johnson's Home, Glocester, RI**

**Oct 16th - Servicing Yamaha Disklavier - Larry Brown @ Piano Gallery of Rhode Island, Middletown**

**Nov 20th - Jude Reveley, RPT - Soundboard Designs @ Ruth's home in Warwick**  
**No Meetings or Newsletters: December or January**



**Rhode Island Chapter**  
**www.RI-PTG.org**

**October 10, 2008—October 12, 2008**

*CENTRAL EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE - THE "WHOLE"*

*PIANO* Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines, IL [www.wholepiano.com](http://www.wholepiano.com)

**October 16, 2008—October 19, 2008**

*SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE*

Koger South Conference Center, Richmond, VA [www.sercptg.org](http://www.sercptg.org)

**October 30, 2008—November 2, 2008**

*SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SCRC)*

Riley Center, Fort Worth, TX [www.ptg.org/scrc](http://www.ptg.org/scrc)