

September 2009

President's Message



Scott Helms, RPT

It was a real treat for me to go back to my old stomping grounds in Michigan for the PTG Annual Convention & Institute. I saw a lot of people who were members of my old chapter in Grand Rapids, and got to visit some places I've missed since moving. The Convention is always worth going to. No matter how long you've been in the business and how proficient you are at piano work, there is ALWAYS something new to learn from your colleagues, and the convention is the best place to do it! Next year's convention is in Las Vegas, within driving distance of Phoenix. I strongly urge every member of our chapter to start planning now, save up \$75 or \$100 a month, and GO to the 2010 PTG Convention & Technical Institute.

I also appreciate being asked to serve as our chapter president again this year. This will allow us to continue with plans that we started last year, and maybe make adjustments or "tweak" things that we changed last year as necessary.

Looking back on what we accomplished in the chapter last year, we:

- ▶ Purchased an LCD projector and screen for use at chapter functions. This has already gotten lots of use at our meetings!
- ▶ Created an online map of the valley showing locations of all chapter members to encourage people to carpool to meetings, thereby improving attendance.
- ▶ Continued our full-color, multi-page online newsletter, and included monthly treasurer's reports and president's messages.
- ▶ Updated and expanded the Chapter Bylaws.
- ▶ Created a Seminar Committee to organize our January Arizona State Seminar.
- ▶ Changed our meeting time to 7:30 to make it easier to attend after a full day of work.
- ▶ Located the Chapter Library, which is being reorganized to make available at meetings.

Looking forward, I hope to:

- ▶ Continue our efforts to improve attendance at chapter meetings, and be creative in finding new ways to accomplish this goal
- ▶ Provide at least 2 Saturday workshops for Associates to help them improve their skills, and work towards passing the RPT exams
- ▶ Create an instructor exchange program with neighboring chapters, where they would send someone to us to teach a technical session at our meeting, and one of our members would do the same at their meeting
- ▶ Create a scholarship program for Associates who take and pass the RPT exams
- ▶ Spearhead an effort to help breathe some life into the Tucson chapter
- ▶ Discuss the possibility of providing an honorarium for instructors at our chapter meetings and Saturday workshops

I believe these are all achievable goals, and that these things will make our chapter (and in some cases other chapters) stronger and more valuable to our members. If you have other ideas about worthwhile goals for our chapter, please let me know. If you don't attend meetings, please think about what we could offer at them that would entice you to come, and let me know about it. The Phoenix chapter is strong, but it could be stronger with your help and support!

Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
PREVIOUS EVENT PHOTOS, NEXT EVENT INFO	2
IN MEMORY: RICHARD WEINBERGER, RPT	2
STATE SEMINAR PREVIEW: STEVE BRADY, RPT	3
SPECIAL EVENT IN OCTOBER: FRANZ MOHR	3
TREASURER'S REPORT	3

SPECIAL EVENT:
An evening with Franz Mohr
 details on p.3



President:
Scott Helms, RPT

Vice President:
G. Eliot Lee, RPT

Treasurer:
Wendell Smock

Secretary & Newsletter Editor:
Mark Purney, RPT

August Gathering

The summer pot luck was hosted by our new RVP, Larry Messerly in Prescott. Once again, it was a great time to socialize and get away from the heat..



Our Next Event: Keyframe Bedding with Lucas Hathcock, RPT

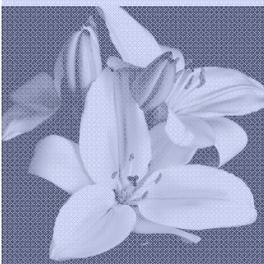
Monday, September 14th at 7:30 PM

Arizona Piano

4134 E. Wood St. Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85040



Lucas Hathcock, RPT



In Memory...

We regret to announce the passing of Phoenix Chapter member Richard Weinberger, RPT. He was 85 years old. Richard had served in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Lucille, were from Sakamoto, California.

Preview of the 2010 Arizona State Seminar featuring Steve Brady, RPT

January 9th 2010



Steve Brady has been a piano technician since 1973, and served as head piano technician at the University of Washington from 1978 till 2003. During those 25 years he tuned and prepared pianos for approximately 5,000 concerts and recitals, and worked with most of the leading pianists of our time, including Murray Perahia, Alfred Brendel, Andras Schiff, Garrick Ohlsson, Emanuel Ax, Peter Serkin, Richard Goode, Claudio Arrau, Alicia de Larrocha, Andre Watts, Vladimir Feltsman, Lang Lang, and Evgeny Kissin.

Steve served as editor of the Piano Technicians Journal for six years (1995-2000). In 1996 he received the PTG "Member of Note" award, and in 1999 PTG published his book, *A Piano Technician's Guide to Field Repairs*, which recently went into a second edition. His new book, *Under the Lid: The Art and Craft of the Concert Piano Technician*, was published in 2008. In his spare time Steve enjoys cooking, tending his wine cellar, and dancing Argentine tango. He lives in Seattle with his wife, the concert pianist Judith Cohen.

Class Offerings:

Bending the Rules 90 minutes

We live and work in a world of rules describing the ways we should do things. Like a composer learning the elements and rules of music theory, a piano technician learns the rules that apply to most situations in tuning, regulation, voicing, and repairs. As the composer grows in the craft of composition and becomes an artist, so the piano technician can grow into an artist. Part of this process consists of learning when it is necessary and even desirable to bend the rules.

Grand Action Rejuvenation 90 minutes

More than a simple regulation, less than a shop-based reconditioning, this one-day procedure will give new life to grand pianos that have received moderate to hard use for 5-10 years. Includes procedures for rejuvenating knuckles, key bushings, action centers, lubricating critical points, and regulating the action "in the real world."

What Difference Does it Make? 90 minutes

How will a pianist respond to a change in each aspect of grand action regulation? This class examines how the pianist feels it when we take each parameter too far in one direction and then too far in the other. If a live pianist is available, I like to have one play the piano before and after some of the changes to get their feedback.

The Full-service Approach to Piano Maintenance 90 minutes

Take your daily work to a new level with this full-service approach, by "servicing" instead of "tuning" the pianos in your clientele. Increase your income and customer satisfaction while making your job more interesting and rewarding.

Special Event with Franz Mohr

Steinway of Phoenix is hosting an evening with author and renowned piano technician, Franz Mohr. On Monday, October 12th.

They have extended a special invitation to the Phoenix Chapter of the PTG: From 3PM to 6PM, you will have an opportunity to meet and talk to Mr. Mohr.



Franz Mohr

Later on, Franz will discuss his book and his career of servicing pianos for some of the greatest pianists of our time.

Steinway Of Phoenix
14418 N. Scottsdale Rd, Suite 183
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

From the Treasurer's Desk:

Yes, we still have money in the bank. Our PTG economy has not crashed. Our little bubble floats along nicely from month to month.

Total assets: \$11285.62

No activity since last report. No debits or credits.

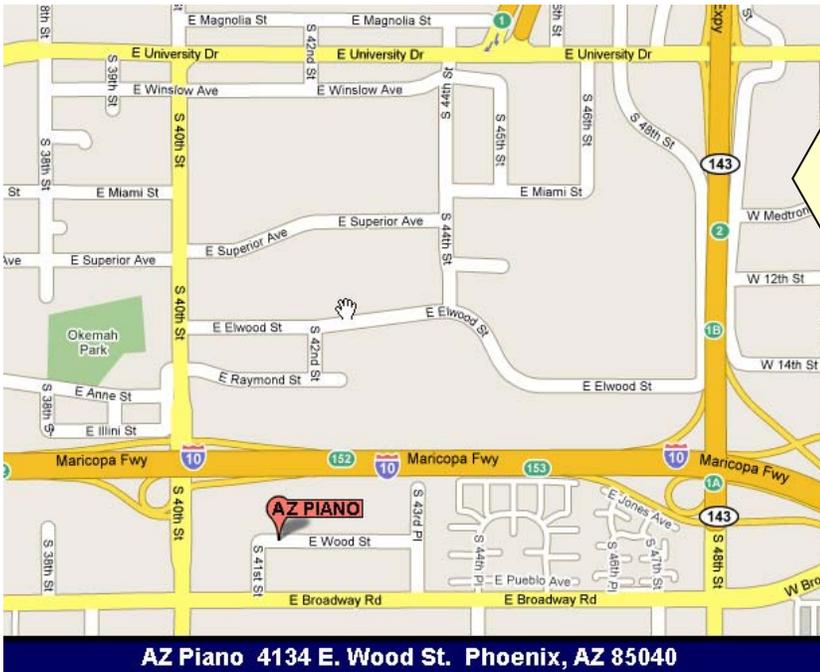
Cheerio, Wendell, PHX/PTG Treasurer.



Wendell Smock

Agraffe Graffiti

Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild



Map to our next meeting
Monday, Sept. 14th 7:30 PM

Arizona Piano
4134 E. Wood St. Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85040

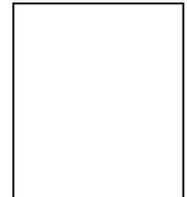


**PIANO
TECHNICIANS
GUILD**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA CHAPTER

All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts in this letter are published on the authority of the authors listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of the Phoenix Chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Phoenix Chapter or the Guild.

from: Phoenix PTG
c/o Mark Purney
3145 N. 76th Way
Mesa, AZ 85207-1294



If you received this by U.S. Mail, and you have an email address, please consider saving the chapter time and money by allowing us to deliver the newsletter to you electronically. Contact mark@mesapiano.com.